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Unpredictable hurricane season ahead

Caribbean climatologist Cedric Van Meerbeeck is forecasting a quieter but potentially unpredictable Atlantic hurricane season this year, warning that even a below-average season could still bring dangerous storms, flooding, drought and extreme heat across the region.

Speaking at the 2026 Wet/Hurricane Season Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum in The Bahamas, Van Meerbeeck said the Caribbean is likely to experience a strong El Niño pattern, which typically suppresses hurricane activity while increasing heat and weather instability.

He described the upcoming season as “erratic,” with fewer storms overall but a heightened risk of intense rainfall events, flash flooding and prolonged heat waves.

Van Meerbeeck forecast about five hurricanes during the 2026 Atlantic season, including two major hurricanes, placing activity below the historical seasonal average.



Guyana eyes social media regulation

ATTORNEY GENERAL and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall, SC., says Guyana will examine legislative models from around the world as it seeks to develop an effective framework to regulate social media use, particularly among children.

He said countries in Europe, along with Australia, New Zealand and Brazil, have already introduced measures aimed at addressing the impact of social media and on-line platforms, particularly on younger users.

The Attorney General disclosed that the government has retained a United Kingdom-based law firm to conduct a review of international approaches and identify models that have proven both effective and practical.

“We have given that firm instructions to look at the models in the world that are excellent and the ones that have proven to be more successful,” he explained.

He stressed that although the broader challenge relates to regulating activity within cyberspace, the immediate focus of the consultation is the protection of children, whom he described as Guyana’s “most precious asset.”

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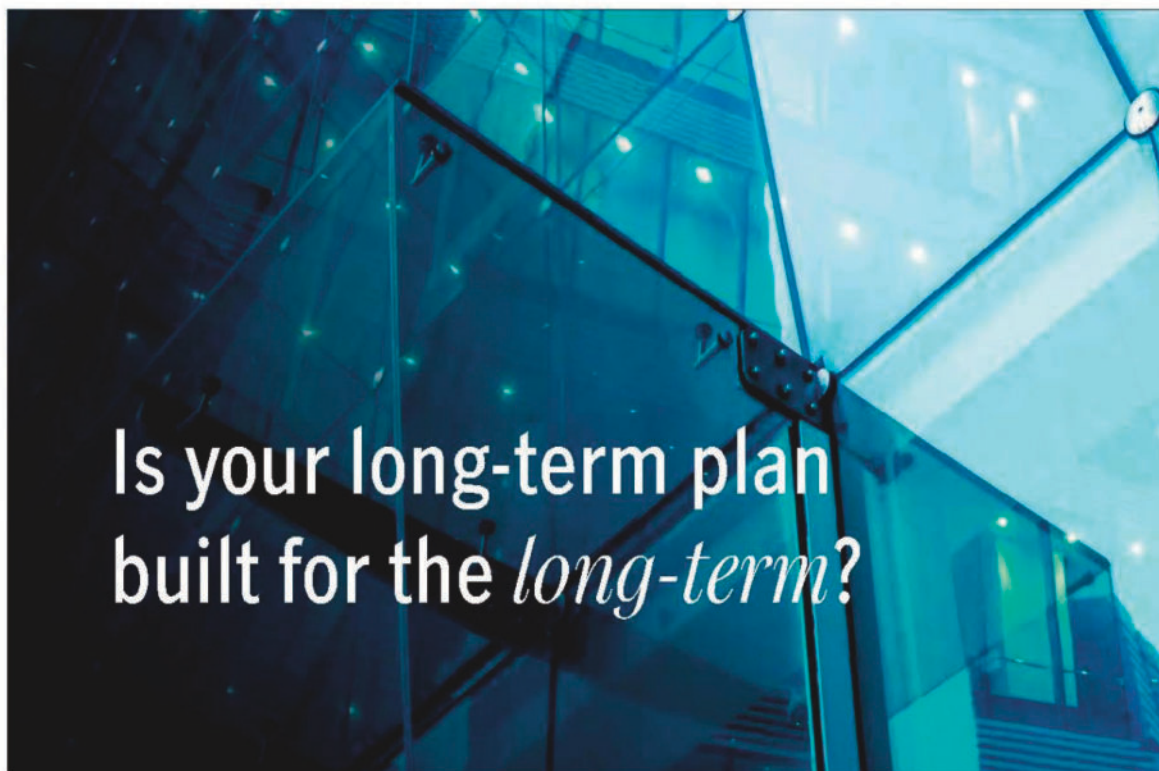
Dean of Yale U appointed as President of Am-Guy Congress

The World Guyanese Congress is delighted to announce that Professor Kerwin K. Charles, Dean of the Yale University School of Management now commences his appointment on June 1st, 2026 as the inaugural Honorary President of the American Guyanese Congress.

Founder of the World Guyanese Congress, Mark M. Persaud expressed unbridled enthusiasm in Dean Charles' appointment. Persaud stated, "Kerwin is not only a friend and outstanding scholar but also a passionate and caring individual with a delightful infectious enthusiasm that is both endearing and inspiring. One could not find a better role model for future leaders in our community. This Buxton born gentleman and scholar does us all proud."

Kerwin Kofi Charles is the Indra K. Nooyi Dean & Frederick W. Beinecke Professor of Economics, Policy, and Management at the Yale School of Management. He is also a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and an elected Fellow of the Society of Labour Economists. He has been chair of the Board of trustees of NORC, serves on the board of trustees of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, is a member of the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee, and sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Labor Economics. He was previously the Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor of the Harris School of Public Policy at The University of Chicago and was a professor at the University of Michigan from 1995 - 2006.

On December 5, 2019, Charles announced that the Yale School of Management had received the largest gift in its history—\$100 million to fund programs devoted to strengthening leadership in public school systems. The gift came from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation and will make possible the creation of the Broad Center at the Yale School of Management. The new center will oversee a new master's degree in Education Management and executive training for top leaders in public school systems—both tuition-free. The Broad Center at Yale SOM will also create a data repository of research related to leadership effectiveness in K-12 education.



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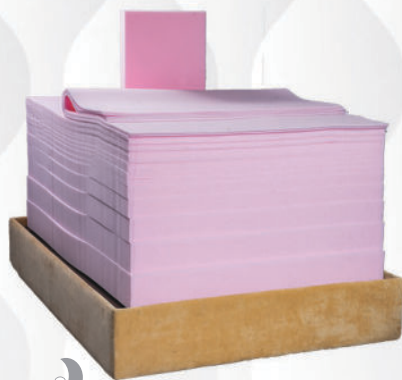
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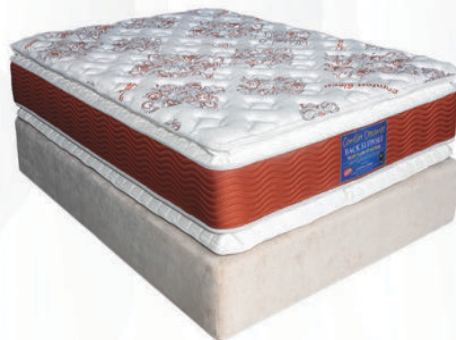
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President unveils new opportunities for local ownership, investment

PRESIDENT Dr. Irfaan Ali has announced a series of initiatives aimed at increasing Guyanese ownership, investment and participation across key sectors of the economy, signalling what he described as a new phase in the country's local content agenda.

Speaking at the Local Content Summit Networking Reception at the Four Points by Sheraton on Tuesday evening, President Ali said the government is now looking beyond the oil-and-gas sector to embed local content principles across the wider economy.

"We are now moving into an era where we want local content to be structured in the everyday evolution of our economy," the President told attendees.

"The coming weeks will be very exciting for local content and local participation in large-scale transformative projects," he added.

Among the major initiatives announced was the establishment of a Junior Stock Exchange, which will create opportunities for Guyanese businesses

and individuals to invest in emerging sectors and participate in the ownership of major projects.

According to President Ali, one major developer in the gold sector has already committed to reserving shares for local participation when the exchange becomes operational.

The President also revealed that legislation to establish the Guyana Development Bank will be tabled in Parliament within days.

The bank is expected to provide financing for small and micro-enterprises while supporting the development of business clusters capable of taking advantage of new economic opportunities.

In another major announcement, President Ali disclosed that the government is advancing plans for a Diaspora Bond, which will offer fixed rates of return and allow Guyanese living abroad to invest directly in the country's development.

The bond is expected to help raise capital for large-scale infrastructure



President Ali addressing the local content summit

projects while strengthening diaspora engagement in national development.

On the energy front, the President reaffirmed the government's commit-

ment to ensuring local participation in major projects being developed within the Wales Development Zone.

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Cross border traffic at the Guyana-Brazil border

Guyana-Brazil trade hits US\$1B as regional links expand

TRADE between Guyana and Brazil has expanded significantly, with both governments positioning the growing partnership as a key driver for South American integration and long-term economic development.

Brazil's Ambassador to Guyana, Maria Cristina de Castro Martins, recently revealed that trade between the two countries has increased from approximately US\$58 million in 2020 to US\$1 billion in 2026.

Speaking on 104.1 Guyana Lite FM, Ambassador Castro Martins described the expansion over the past four years as a result of growing demand in energy, mining, infrastructure and construction.

"The trade relations between both countries have been expanded significantly in recent years. The trade flow, which was around US\$58 million in 2020, now reached US\$1 billion," the

ambassador stated.

Guyana's Foreign Secretary, Robert Persaud, said the growth reflects a strong political and economic relationship between the two neighbours.

"The increase in trade between Guyana and Brazil reflects the political will by both sides to maintain good neighbourly relations through enhanced co-operation in all areas, including trade," Persaud told the Department of Public Information.

Persaud noted that by 2024, Brazil had become Guyana's fifth-largest source of imports and its seventh-largest export market. He attributed the success to closer co-operation between the governments and private sectors of both nations through reciprocal trade missions.

He added that disruptions in global supply chains has also prompted

Guyanese businesses to look for alternative markets to support the country's massive housing, agricultural and infrastructural projects.

Balancing The Trade Deficit

The foreign secretary, however, acknowledged that the current trade balance remained heavily in Brazil's favour.

"While there is an increase in trade, largely due to oil exports, it remains largely in favour of Brazil. Bilateral trade is conducted under the Partial Scope Agreement signed by both countries in 2001. The trade imbalance is understandably due to differences in competitiveness, size and productive capacity," he explained.

Persaud continued, "Some of Guyana's products face technical barriers including phytosanitary requirements, which is an area that the countries continue to collaborate on."

Infrastructure and Regional Integration

Looking at the broader region, Persaud said Guyana views Brazil as a vital strategic partner and a gateway between South America and the Caribbean.

"The Guyana-Brazil relationship is fundamental to South American integration and the prosperity of the region," he reiterated.

The two countries are currently working to strengthen digital, energy and transport links to drive economic growth.

The foreign secretary several indicated major infrastructural projects acting as catalysts for this integration, including the Linden-Lethem Road, a planned deep-water port and the upgrade of the Lethem regional airport.

He also reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to fostering a favourable investment climate, noting that regional investments are contributing to job creation, technology transfer and increased economic activity. [DPI]

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A win for CARICOM

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, June 2 2026

STARTING July 1, 2026, Guyanese and Barbadian citizens will be able to travel with either a passport or a national identification card.

What was meant to be welcomed across the board as a concrete step towards deeper Caribbean integration has instead raised eyebrows in some quarters, particularly in Barbados where questions have been posed about security, border control, legal ramifications and administrative readiness.

These fears should not be dismissed lightly. Citizens have the right to ask how a new travel arrangement will work and what safeguards will be in place. But much of the concern about the initiative seems to stem not from the policy, but from those responsible for implementing it not communicating openly and quickly with the public.

In fact, the use of national ID cards for border crossings is neither radical nor unprecedented. Regional blocs around the world have long adopted similar arrangements. Citizens of the European Union routinely travel in the EU and Schengen Area with national ID cards.

The same holds true for the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member states where government-issued identification documents already allow people to travel within the region.

If such systems can work in other jurisdictions, there is no reason in principle why Guyana and Barbados cannot make it work.

Indeed, the potential benefits are large. National ID cards are generally more available than passports.

Both countries may reduce one of the barriers to travel to promote more people to move for tourism, family visits, education and business.

More travel can boost economic activity, enhance cultural links and deepen people-to-people exchanges between the two countries that already have close historical and regional ties.

It also has the potential to serve as an important building block in the wider CARICOM integration project.

Caribbean leaders have talked for decades about building a more connected region. But progress has often been slow, frustrating citizens who hear more about integration than they see it actually taking place. This is an action-oriented and pragmatic step, moving the conversation from rhetoric to action.

There are also longer-term possibilities. Mutual recognition of identification systems could eventually facilitate the development of more digital services, easier cross-border business transactions and stronger cooperation in areas from commerce to public administration. Trusted identity frameworks are becoming part of economic competitiveness in an increasingly digital world.

Now, that's not to say that the challenges are small. Border security is still paramount. Citizens should be able to trust that national ID cards used for travel are of internationally accepted standards and that the integrity of immigration systems will not be compromised.

Luckily, standards already exist. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has prepared detailed specifications for machine readable travel documents, including identity cards.

The standards range from biometric data and se-

curity features of documents to electronic verification systems. When implemented properly, they offer a framework to ensure that identification documents can be authenticated efficiently and securely.

It's now a question of preparedness. Border officials need to be trained properly. Immigration systems need to process and verify identity cards. Legal and administrative systems need to be efficient. Above all, governments must communicate clearly and consistently with the public.

Transparency is not only good governance. It is essential for public confidence. The weeks leading up to the implementation should therefore be used to provide detailed explanations, address concerns and dispel misinformation.

Ultimately, this measure is important for more than travel documents. It's about where the Caribbean wants to go. Grand declarations are not sufficient to bring about regional integration. It comes in incremental steps, slowly bringing Caribbean people closer together.

Some people see the Guyana-Barbados arrangement as just an administrative adjustment. We see it in a different way. It is a working example of integration moving from aspiration to reality. It is a reminder that progress often comes not in dramatic leaps but in carefully thought-out steps.

The dream of a closer CARICOM has not yet been fully realised. But if the region is ever going to realise its vision of seamless movement, deeper economic co-operation and a stronger regional identity, it has to start somewhere.

While this may not be the end game, it is certainly a step in the right direction. In a place where progress can take time, every meaningful step for-

Infrastructural expansion must protect wildlife

Dear Editor,

DID you know that capybaras are still found around the Eugene F Correia Airport (EFCA) and the excursion incident on April 14 was not an isolated case of them on the runway? How much of their natural habitat was destroyed for "development" in recent years. As concrete structures replace green spaces along the Heroes Highway stretching through Buzzbee Dam and eventually towards CJIA, forcing wildlife into urban areas and transit zones, we must critically evaluate our strategy for greenfield projects. Was any mechanism put in place by the government for relocation, or cohabitation? I think not.

Editor, we understand that Guyana is "developing", the population is growing and industries are expanding. It is the normal progression of a country with managed resources. But as the saying goes, you don't get something for nothing. So, who pays? The fauna that once lived in those ecosystems. Sustainable resource management requires that we account for this ecological cost.

Out of sight, out of mind? Recently, an anteater

was sighted in the newly opened Guyana-China Friendship park. At the same park, on one of my morning commutes, I spotted an eagle perched on the stump of a tree that it once called home. The capybaras are at the airport. Just driving on the Ogle highway at sundown one can see flocks of parrots heading west. Talk to the farmers, or anyone living in those areas before the development, what have they spotted?

Those anecdotal observations add weight to the need for more robust studies. The government should commission wildlife biologists to conduct data driven population and baseline studies before it is too late. The results can inform collaborative planning and balance development with survival requirements of native wildlife. Let's not preach habitat destruction as a worldwide problem and we do nothing to curb our own contributions to it; however small it may appear.

Mass relocation, while challenging, remains far better than localised eradication. Whether this is the right answer or not would depend on the outcome of

the studies. Alternative progressive options should also be explored such as mandating biophilic designs that allow human infrastructure to coexist with non-disruptive species. Additionally, broad public education on safe animal handling may be the single biggest positive solution by mitigating fear driven conflicts.

Editor, at the very least, when government opens new areas for "development" due diligence must be done. The evidence suggests otherwise. Developers should no longer be allowed to clear plots indiscriminately without managing the wildlife that thrives there. At the very least, I strongly urge the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission to immediately help with the capybaras at EFCA airport before someone starts killing them. Implementing an organised wildlife management and mitigation strategy now is vital before human-wildlife conflicts lead to destruction of these animals.

Yours sincerely,
Avinand Rampersaud



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Canada ripe for foreign investment, Carney tells New York businesses

By Milan Maharaj

LJI REPORTER

Prime Minister Mark Carney wrapped up his two day trip to New York City on Monday, utilizing his talks with business leaders and investors to market Canada as a promising site for foreign investments and economic development.

According to the PM's office, this tour emphasized the importance of attracting capital to Canada while outlining the economic agenda of the federal government. As part of this tour, Prime Minister Mark Carney held discussions with CEOs, business people, investors and financial experts in order to make the case for Canada as a stable and competitive destination for investments and economic activity.

One of the major highlights of Carney's tour was his talk at the Economic Club of New York where he talked about the economic strategy of the federal government. Prime Minister Carney noted that the agenda of the federal government included increased investment in various sectors including energy, transportation, information and technology and defense alongside economic engagements overseas.

As part of its plan, the federal government plans to create more than \$1 trillion worth of economic activity over a period of five years through a mix of public and private funding and other measures.

Carney made sure to emphasize Canada's strengths, which include its vast natural resources sector, skilled workers, and an expansive network of international trade agreements. According to the Prime Minister's Office, Canada currently has free trade agreements with 51 nations, giving it access to a market of around 1.5 billion people.

According to the government representatives, access to foreign markets continues to be significant for the investors who opt for long term investments. The officials claim that the country's trading system, transport facilities, as well as the proximity to the USA, make the nation a gateway for businesses targeting consumers from diverse locations.

Fiscal strength was also listed as a Canadian strength in attracting foreign investors by the federal government, in addition to financial stability. The government mentioned Canada's AAA



Prime Minister Mark Carney at the New York Economic Club

credit rating, which is one of the highest available. Furthermore, the country has a lower net debt-to-GDP ratio than other G7 member nations.

This visit took place amidst a period of uncertainty regarding Canada's economic relations with the United States. Speaking in New York, Carney advocated for closer economic ties between Canada and the US, but he stressed the need to diversify Canada's international trade relations.

In his speech, the prime minister stated that Canada and America continue to be interconnected due to intersectoral supply chains in fields such as energy production, automotive manufacturing and critical minerals. He suggested closer cooperation in these areas would be beneficial for both countries as they face ever-changing global economic situations.

As part of the government's economic strategy, it has begun actively pushing forward initiatives related to infrastructure projects, clean energy generation, artificial intelligence industry, advanced manufacturing and critical mineral extraction. Investment in all these sectors is seen as a way to generate employment, increase efficiency and promote further growth.

Federal officials noted that the world has witnessed increased international competition over investments in recent years, as all countries wish to secure funds for their major projects of infrastructure and industry. North American and European governments have devised many policies to encourage investors.

According to information from the federal government, Canada received the first place rank among the most favorable markets for infrastructure investments according to the Global Infrastructure Investor Association. Other promising areas include artificial intelligence and quantum computing industries.

In addition to interacting with the

country's business leaders, the prime minister's trip offered an opportunity to examine trends that might affect economies worldwide. The matters covered in the discussions included supply chain robustness, energy security, innovation, and future investment plans, stated by the federal government.

The New York trip is part of a larger strategy by the Canadian government aimed at boosting the economic ties between Canada and other countries, while promoting investments in large scale projects in Canada. The Canadian government claims that such strategies will help build an economy that is more stable in an ever changing global market environment.



Government eyes third ferry for Parika-Bartica route

WITH increased traffic along various routes in the Essequibo River, the government is exploring the addition of a third vessel to ply the Parika to Bartica route.

This was according to Minister of Public Works, Juan Edghill, who was at the time aboard the MV Makouria vessel and stated that the route is currently being serviced by two vessels.

However, the Parika-Bartica corridor, one of the country's busiest river transport routes, has seen a steady increase in both passenger and vehicle traffic in recent months, with authorities attributing the growth to expanded economic activity in the interior and along the Essequibo River.

He said the high volume of movement has made it necessary for the government to consider expanding the fleet serving the route, in order to



Minister of Public Works, Juan Edghill

reduce waiting times and improve efficiency for commuters and businesses relying on the service.

"We are looking to add a third vessel to the Bartica route. His Excellency, the President, has instructed

that we explore getting a third vessel."

The initiative advanced by the President forms part of broader efforts to modernise the country's river transport system and strengthen connectivity.

He said similar investments on other ferry routes have already improved service delivery and reduced congestion.

The minister noted that the addition of a third vessel would significantly improve capacity, particularly for vehicles and heavier cargo, helping to ease long lines that sometimes form at the ferry stelling during peak travel periods. "So rather than people be in lines for long periods, whether its on-line or physically to get on these ferries, because of the great demand, we're improving service," he said.

The Public Works Minister went on to note that he is happy that members of government and heads of agencies who were recently travelling to Bartica for an outreach have been able to get the experience and get a greater appreciation for the service.

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Region Six poised for major agricultural expansion – Mustapha

MINISTER of Agriculture Zul-fikar Mustapha continues to champion the extensive development agenda earmarked for Region Six, highlighting the significant investments being made to transform the region's agricultural landscape.

According to the minister, major projects are advancing across the region, including substantial investments in infrastructure, land development, drainage and irrigation systems, all aimed at boosting economic growth and improving the livelihoods of farmers and residents.

He noted that these developments form part of the PPP/C government's vision to unlock the region's full potential, create new opportunities for agriculture and business, and enhance the overall quality of life across Region Six.

Mustapha, who accompanied Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo during a public outreach in Region Six on Friday, said several concerns raised by residents fell under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture, including issues pertaining to land, livestock and crops.

According to the minister, these matters were addressed directly during the engagement, with immediate solutions being implemented where possible.

He stressed the importance of such community outreaches, noting that they allow the government to respond quickly to the needs of residents and farmers.

"These are things our government is implementing so that people can have fast results, fast action," Mustapha said.

The minister said Region Six is poised for significant growth in agricultural production, pointing to major infrastructural projects currently underway, including the construction of two Hope-like canals.



Minister Mustapha accompanied Vice-president Dr Bharrat Jagdeo during a public outreach in Region Six

He also revealed that several internal canals are being rehabilitated and improved, while additional sluices and pumps will be installed to strengthen drainage and irrigation systems.

According to Mustapha, the completion of the Hope-like canals will open up approximately 35,000 acres of new land for cultivation.

"What we are doing here is expanding land cultivation. We are having more people coming on board, we are having more land and more production. Production will increase tremendously," he said.

The minister noted that Region Six currently has approximately 75,000 acres under rice cultivation, but projected that this figure could increase to 100,000 acres within the next year.

He further highlighted efforts to expand mechanised agriculture through GuySuCo.

"We have more lands now under mechanisation in GuySuCo. For example, we have started 5,000 hectares of land that is mechanised, with GuySuCo now replanting cane again. We also have the juice plant that DDL is setting up in the Eldorado area. Farmers will now diversify into crops like [sic] passion fruit and cherry, and we are also encouraging rice farmers to set aside an acre or two so that we can do this integrated farming," Mustapha explained.

With agriculture continuing to be modernised, Mustapha underscored the importance of integrated farming and model farms that produce high-value crops.

He said the approach will allow farmers to diversify their income streams rather than relying on a single crop.

"Farmers will not only depend on one area for income, but we are now diversifying and having more different options available," he said.

The minister emphasised that with the scale of development planned for Region Six, residents and farmers have much to look forward to in the years ahead.

"Region Six is set for great development, and there are many opportunities that residents and farmers can benefit from as these projects continue to unfold," he said.

GPHC now one of Caribbean's best hospitals

JUST five years ago, the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) was operating without a functional X-ray machine.

Today, following more than \$85 billion in investments, Guyana's premier public hospital is constructing a state-of-the-art medical imaging centre, installing advanced diagnostic equipment and expanding specialised services as part of a wider transformation of the country's health-care system.

Speaking on the latest episode of the Starting Point podcast, Chief Executive Officer of the GPHC, Robbie Rambarran, said the institution has undergone a dramatic evolution, moving from a facility once dependent on donated equipment to one that now boasts some of the most advanced medical technology in the region.

Reflecting on the hospital's journey, Rambarran

stressed that its transformation has been a collective effort involving healthcare workers, administrators and government support.

He recalled that years ago, the hospital struggled with outdated infrastructure and limited resources, often relying on second-hand equipment and supplies donated from overseas.

Today, he said, the situation has changed significantly due to strategic government investments and a growing economy.

"Now with the advent of oil and that new prosperity, we are able to, the president with his mandates, invest more in healthcare," Rambarran said.

He added that leadership and teamwork have been critical to ensuring that those investments translate into improved healthcare services.

"Having that investment, we need to have people

who are there to champion every level and be invested. Understanding the dynamics of healthcare and having been around the hospital for 20-plus years, has really helped me to position the hospital, shape that journey, and work with the technical people, the doctors, the nurses, and every category of staff, to listen to them, hear their mandate, their wishes, their ambitions, and work towards that collective goal," he said.

The facility has been supported by investment in a number of areas. Over the last five years, the government has invested in capacity building and expertise training as well as upgrading equipment and introducing new technology in the hospital; investments that Rambarran says have made the institution a regional leader.

As he shared, "Over the last five years, excluding 2026, there have been \$85.2 billion invested."



President Dr. Irfaan Ali on Sunday told Region Seven residents that government service centres will be operationalised at Bartica

Gov't service centres to be opened at Bartica, Kamarang – President Ali announces

KEY government services that were once out of reach for citizens across Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni) will soon be available with the imminent launch of the government's service centre.

This was announced by President Dr. Irfaan Ali on Sunday during a Cabinet outreach where he told hundreds of residents at Karrau Village that the centre will be fully operational within four weeks.

"We are launching the Government Service Centre. In Region Seven, we will have one such Government Service Centre, where all GRA [Guyana Revenue Authority] services, Digital ID services, NIS [National Insurance Scheme] services, Immigration services, Licensing services will be done right here in Bartica in Region Seven. So, you don't have to go anywhere. You want your passport, you will go to Bartica. You want your Digital ID, you go there. You want a birth certificate, death certificate, you go

right there," the President said.

He made a similar announcement during a subsequent meeting at Kamarang.

The government recently began the roll out of the service centres across the country, creating a one-stop access to multiple government agencies, decentralised services, improved efficiency and people-centred delivery.

Citing millions of dollars in direct support and development spending, President Ali also shared that the government has shown its commitment to the people of Karrau through a series of targeted investments. These include increased old-age pensions, more than \$13 million in Presidential Grants, a further \$7.5 million from a supplementary budget allocation, and annual LCDS funding of \$24 million over the past three years.

The President added that approximately \$39 million has also been invested in capital works in the village,

reflecting what he described as the government's willingness to invest in the community's long-term development.

He noted further that the government is laying the groundwork for a new phase of development in Region Seven through major infrastructure investments and improved connectivity.

He stressed that the region's importance extends beyond mining, describing it as a vital hub for forestry, and one with enormous potential for tourism growth. The ongoing development of transport and other infrastructure, he added, is intended to support economic expansion, and create new opportunities for communities across the region.

"I'm not here today for long speeches, but I'm here today for us to have a conversation on the next phase of development for your village and for this region," he said.

Addressing the residents of Kamarang, President Ali noted that in a

bid to increase the region's food security, his government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, will establish a 20,000-capacity tunnel-house poultry farm within the next three months.

The chickens, the President said, will be sold to the upper Mazaruni area at cost. He said that a segment of the Army's Agricornp will be deployed to the community to ensure that the project is set up as quickly as possible.

Additionally, the government will also invest in increasing the community's cold storage capacity, with an investment made in procuring three 20-foot containerised solar blast freezers.

"That will reduce tremendously the cost of two key items: Eggs and chicken. This is an investment that will cost us maybe close to \$300 million, but we're going to make this investment to enhance the food security of the upper Mazaruni area," President Ali said.

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GPHC engaging HR, talent agencies for more training to fill gaps

THE Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) is intensifying efforts to address staffing shortages, particularly within its nursing service, through a combination of local training initiatives and international recruitment.

Chief Executive Officer Robbie Rambarran said the institution has been engaging human resource and talent recruitment agencies as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen its workforce.

Discussions are also under way with agencies in countries such as the Philippines and India to secure specialised personnel who can help meet growing demands within the healthcare system.

“In terms for the doctors, there isn’t much of a challenge. There’s a huge challenge in nursing staff. We have engaged human resource agencies, talent agency in recruiting staff, which we’re in the process of having discussions,” he said during an appearance on the Starting Point Podcast over the weekend.

He noted that the GPHC has been working on both short-term and long-term solutions to address gaps.

As part of those efforts, the hospital has expanded training programmes for patient care assistants, who play a supporting role in the delivery of nursing services. In addition, a large number of nursing assistants are currently undergoing training.

Rambarran said approximately 600 registered nurses are expected to graduate by the end of the year, providing a substantial boost to the country’s health-care workforce.



GPHC is in discussions ongoing with Philippines, India

“We have been training a lot of people in Guyana as patient care assistants, which complement nursing. There is nursing assistant...a lot of them [will] graduate at the end of this year, about 600 registered nurses will be graduated; so while we are training, we are looking to bring in some specialised staff who will help boost that workforce in the nursing service.”

While training continues locally,

the GPHC is also seeking to recruit specialised staff from overseas to strengthen the nursing service and ensure adequate staffing levels across departments.

The CEO acknowledged that there are also some shortages in pharmacy and medical-technology services, though these are less severe than those affecting nursing.

He explained that the opening of

several new regional hospitals has contributed to staffing shifts, with healthcare workers opting to take up positions closer to their homes.

“People are going there to work because they live closer, and that is understandable,” Rambarran said, adding that reduced commuting costs and improved convenience have made those positions attractive to many employees.

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

Key priorities of the WGC include:

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

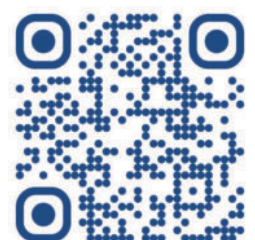
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To find out more about World Guyanese Congress and our goals and priorities. Scan the QR code, or visit www.wgc-org.com

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Min. Mustapha commits to agricultural development initiatives for Jawalla Village

As part of a Cabinet outreach led by His Excellency President Dr. Irfaan Ali, Minister of Agriculture Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, along with a team from the Ministry of Agriculture, today met with residents of Jawalla Village in the Upper Mazaruni, Region Seven, to discuss issues affecting the community and identify opportunities for economic and agricultural development.

During the engagement, residents raised several concerns and proposals aimed at improving livelihoods and expanding agricultural production in the area. In response, Minister Mustapha outlined several interventions that will be implemented in the short, medium, and long term by the Ministry of Agriculture to support the community.

The Minister disclosed that officials from the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) will return to the village within one week to conduct a comprehensive assessment and work with residents to develop a plan for large-scale food production. He said the government wants to move beyond subsistence farming and create sustainable agricultural enterprises in rural communities that can generate income and improve liveli-



Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha addressing residents in Region Seven

hoods.

"We have made significant investments over the last five years to transform the agriculture sector. The budgetary allocation to agriculture has increased substantially, allowing us to invest in infrastructure, research, drainage and irrigation, mechanization, and support services for farmers across the country. We have introduced new

and improved crop varieties, expanded cultivation of high-value crops, and are working to ensure that every region contributes meaningfully to national food production," Minister Mustapha said.

To support this initiative, Minister Mustapha announced that a full technical team from NAREI and the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) will work with residents to develop an economic development plan tailored to the community's needs and resources. He also committed to providing agricultural inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, and agrochemicals, while measures will immediately be put in place to address the Acoushi ant infestation that continues to affect cultivation in the area.

Recognizing the potential for aquaculture development, Minister Mustapha also committed to establishing a fish cage project in the community to create an additional source of income and im-

prove access to protein for residents.

He further encouraged residents to expand cassava cultivation, noting that cassava and cassava-based products continue to experience strong demand both locally and regionally.

"Cassava is one of the crops that has tremendous potential. We are seeing growing demand for cassava and cassava-based products, and we want communities like Jawalla to benefit from these opportunities. Through improved planting materials, technical support, and market access, we can increase production and create new income streams for farmers," he explained.

To ensure that farmers can benefit from expanded production, Minister Mustapha said that the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (New GMC) will provide support in the areas of marketing and agro-processing to help create value-added products and secure markets for agricultural produce.



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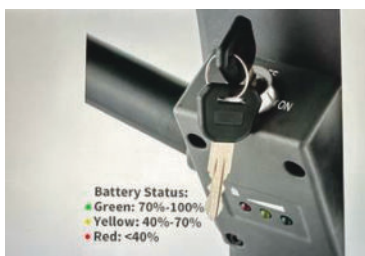
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GO-Invest, BritCham engage UK businesses on investment

THE Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest), in collaboration with the British Chamber of Commerce Guyana (BritCham), has intensified efforts to attract foreign investment, hosting a strategic roundtable in London that brought together senior representatives of British companies interested in expanding or establishing operations in Guyana.

Held at the High Commission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana in London, the engagement provided a platform for direct discussions between investors and government officials on opportunities within Guyana’s rapidly expanding economy, as the country continues to position itself as a leading investment destination in the region.

The roundtable was attended by Guyana’s High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Dr Rajendra Singh, whose participation underscored the growing economic relationship between Guyana and the UK and the commitment of both countries to strengthening commercial ties.

Unlike traditional investment forums, the event was structured as an interactive dialogue, enabling participants to engage directly with government representatives on issues ranging from investment opportunities and business- expansion plans to public procurement, regulatory requirements, local partnerships and investment facilitation.

Leading the discussions was Chief Investment Officer and Member of Parliament Peter Ramsaroop, who outlined Guyana’s ongoing economic transformation and highlighted opportunities across a range of sectors, including infrastructure, energy, logistics, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, healthcare, education, technology and professional services.

A key focus of the discussions was the role British companies can play in Guyana’s development through strategic investments, partnerships with local enterprises, supplier development programmes and participation in major infrastructural projects.

Ramsaroop noted that interest was particularly strong among companies already operating in Guyana and seeking to expand their presence, while several other firms explored opportunities to enter the market for the first time.

“What was particularly encouraging about this engagement was the level of interest from companies al-



Go-Invest’s Peter Ramsaroop with members of BritCham

ready operating in Guyana and looking to expand their presence,” Ramsaroop said. “The discussion focused on practical opportunities, investment facilitation, procurement processes,

partnerships with local businesses, and how companies can align with Guyana’s long-term development agenda.”

Participants were also updated on

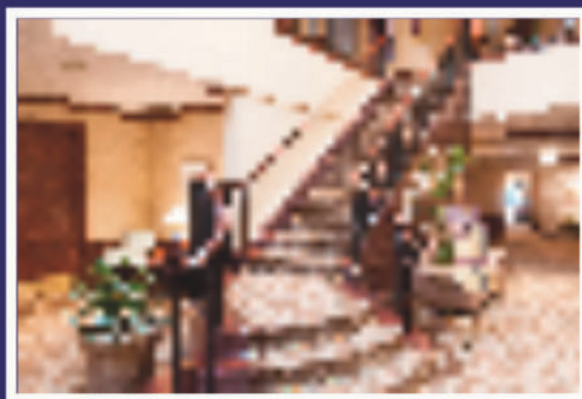
major government initiatives, including industrial development projects; improvements in logistics infrastructure; energy expansion; digital-transformation efforts and the modernisation of systems designed to support business operations and investment facilitation.

The discussions further examined opportunities for British expertise and technology to contribute to Guyana’s ambitions in renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, engineering services, healthcare, education, digital transformation and sustainable infrastructural development.

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Caribbean tourism stands firm, officials declare at Caribbean Week

CARIBBEAN tourism leaders have reaffirmed the region's resilience and global appeal despite mounting economic, geopolitical and climate-related challenges, as Caribbean Week 2026 officially opened in New York with calls for greater collaboration and continued investment in the industry.

The opening ceremony brought together tourism ministers, industry stakeholders and government officials from across the Caribbean and the United States, including Guyana's Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues and Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Ministerial Council and Barbados' Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Ian Gooding-Edghill.

Addressing the gathering, Gooding-Edghill said the Caribbean tourism sector is operating in an increasingly complex global environment, marked by geopolitical tensions; economic uncertainty; inflationary pressures; rising operational costs and the growing effects of climate change.

"These are real challenges affecting connectivity, investment, resilience and the long-standing competitiveness of tourism-dependent economies," he said.

Despite these obstacles, the Barbadian minister noted that the Caribbean continues to rank among the world's most sought-after tourism destinations and remains one of the most resilient regions globally.

According to Gooding-Edghill, that resilience has been built through strong leadership, regional co-operation, innovation and a shared commitment to advancing the tourism industry.

"The Caribbean has grown even more resilient, and it is our responsibility as Ministers of Tourism and travel-trade partners to rise to the challenge and protect Caribbean tourism," he told attendees.

The minister stressed that sustained collaboration among governments, tourism agencies and



Curator, Amrita Naraine, during a session with pupils from the J E Burnham Primary School

private-sector partners will be critical to maintaining the region's competitiveness and ensuring continued growth.

Meanwhile, New York State's Chief Procurement Officer Dhanraj Singh, highlighted the deep historical, cultural and economic ties between New York and the Caribbean, describing the relationship as one built over generations through shared values, migration, trade and investment.

"New York and the Caribbean share a relationship that extends far beyond geography," Singh said. "The Caribbean story is woven into the New York story."

He pointed to the visible influence of Caribbean communities across New York's neighbourhoods, businesses, institutions and workforce, noting that Caribbean immigrants and their descendants have played a significant role in shaping the state's cul-

tural identity and economic success.

"You see it in our neighbourhoods, in our businesses, our institutions, our workforce, our entrepreneurship, public service, food, music and culture," Singh said. "Caribbean people have helped shape the state for generations, contributing not only to its cultural richness, but also to its economic strength, resilience and global identity."

Singh also paid tribute to prominent Caribbean-American figures such as the late Shirley Chisholm, the daughter of Caribbean immigrants and the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, and the late General Colin Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants who rose to become U.S. Secretary of State.

He said their achievements underscore the enduring contributions of Caribbean people to American society and global leadership.

The New York official further reaffirmed his state's commitment to fostering inclusive economic opportunities through modernised procurement systems, support for minority- and women-owned businesses, and policies aimed at promoting responsible economic development.

According to Singh, New York has long served as a gateway for Caribbean peoples and remains a vital partner to the region through tourism, trade, education, investment and family connections that span generations.

"That is why Caribbean Week matters," he said. "Gatherings like this are more than a celebration of tourism, they are a celebration of identity, partnership, economic connection and the shared future that we all aspire to realise."

He added that the event serves as a reminder that the Caribbean is not peripheral to New York's success, but is an integral part of its story and continued growth.

Caribbean Week, hosted annually by the Caribbean Tourism Organization, serves as the region's premier tourism event in North America, bringing together policymakers, tourism executives, investors and members of the Caribbean diaspora to promote the region, strengthen partnerships and explore opportunities for sustainable tourism development.

This year's event comes as Caribbean destinations continue to focus on enhancing resilience, expanding connectivity and attracting investment, while adapting to emerging global challenges and changing travel trends.



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Health Minister urges responsible use of Ozempic

HEALTH Minister, Dr Frank Anthony, is urging Guyanese to use Ozempic and similar medications responsibly and only under proper medical supervision, warning that misuse of the drug can create serious health complications.

Dr Anthony said while Ozempic and related medications have been beneficial for many patients, especially those managing diabetes and weight-related conditions, the drugs must be used carefully and according to medical advice.

“Ozempic and this line of medicines that have now become available, they have been helpful to a lot of patients, but it requires proper medical use and it must be under medical supervision because without that, people can misuse it,” Anthony said.

The Minister explained that the medication is not intended for casual or unsupervised use and stressed that persons should only access the drug through proper medical channels. “This is not a non-prescription medicine. You have to get the prescription. Somebody got to supervise your care, and I think people should stick to what the medications are intended for,” he stated.

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US-registered plane crashes in Guyana's interior; pilot suffers minor injuries

A United States-registered single-engine aircraft crashed at the Aricheng Airstrip in Guyana's interior on Sunday, leaving the pilot with minor injuries, according to aviation authorities and local media reports.

The aircraft, a Cessna 182, went down during takeoff from the Aricheng Airstrip. The Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) said preliminary reports indicate there were no fatalities.

In a brief statement, the GCAA said the accident involved a Cessna 182P aircraft bearing registration number N9347G.

"The GCAA is working closely with relevant stakeholders to determine the cause of the accident," the authority said, adding that an investigation has been launched.

According to Guyanese news outlet Demerara Waves, the aircraft belongs to Domestic Airlines, a company operated



The wreckage of the Cessna plane at Aricheng Airstrip

by Guyanese pilot Orlando Charles.

Demerara Waves reported that the pilot, whose identity was not released, sustained slight injuries in the crash. Di-

rector-General of the GCAA, retired Lt. Col. Egbert Field, told the news outlet that the pilot's injuries were minor.

The cause of the crash was not im-

mediately known.

Authorities have not released further details as investigations continue.

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Guyana, Barbados unveil diaspora bond and plans for new regional fund

Guyana and Barbados are moving to deepen regional integration through a series of major financial and digital initiatives, including the launch of a diaspora bond, digital ID card travel, and plans for a new regional investment fund.

Speaking during a press conference last Tuesday evening at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, held as part of Guyana's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, President Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced that Guyana will launch a special diaspora bond within one week.

The bond is aimed at raising funds from Guyanese living overseas to support public infrastructure projects across the country.

"Members of the diaspora, here is your opportunity to make your contribution and be part of the massive transformation taking place in our country," President Ali said.

The initiative forms part of Guyana's broader development push as the country continues expanding its infrastructure and modernisation program.

President Ali also announced that from July 1, 2026, citizens of Guyana and Barbados will be able to travel between the two countries using only their digital ID cards, eliminating the need for passports.

The announcement came during a joint appearance with Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, who described the initiative as a historic step in Caribbean integration.

"We have said before in one of our first meetings that we will work hard to break every boundary, bring our countries closer and more integrated. And today you have seen the power of the digital ID card," President Ali said.

While the system is already operational, airlines were given additional time to align their procedures ahead of the official rollout date.

"From July 1 you can forget your passport at home and travel with your digital ID card to Barbados and same from Barbados to Guyana," he added.

According to President Ali, the digital ID system is expected to go beyond travel and eventually support integrated healthcare services between the two countries. He said the technology could allow medical professionals in either ju-



Guyana President Dr Irfaan Ali with his Barbados counterpart, Mia Mottley

isdiction to securely access a traveller's health records during emergencies.

Guyana and Barbados are also advancing discussions to digitally connect their financial systems to expand opportunities for trade, business and commerce.

"We are now advancing talks on how we would digitally connect our financial systems in a much stronger way, creating financial opportunities, business opportunities, commerce opportunities for both citizens of Barbados and Guyana," President Ali said.

Prime Minister Mottley praised the rapid work undertaken by technical teams in both countries, noting that the digital travel arrangement was completed in under six weeks.

"It endures not to the benefit of the cabinet of Guyana or the cabinet of Bar-

bados, not to the benefit of the private sector of Guyana or the private sector of Barbados, but it is now the benefit of each and every citizen," Mottley said.

She also announced plans for the proposed Trident Arrow Investment Fund, which is intended to allow ordinary citizens from both countries to invest collectively in infrastructure, technology and agri-processing projects.

"We believe that this is the only

way we can allow our citizens to become owners in the land of their birth rather than tenants for the period of their lifetime," Mottley stated.

The two leaders said the initiatives reflect a shared commitment to strengthening CARICOM integration, modernising governance systems and expanding economic opportunities for Caribbean citizens through digital innovation.

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Chunubadi sits beside a repaired table fan. 'In my 80 years, I've never seen heat like this,' she says

'Mornings and nights no longer exist' at 47C: A day in the hottest place in India

By 6am, the sun over Banda had already forgotten it was morning.

The light had the hard glare of a summer afternoon. Shadows were shrinking before breakfast.

In May, this dusty district in India's Uttar Pradesh state spent days at the top of an unenviable national ranking: the hottest place in the country. Temperatures hovered at 47-48C (116-118F) for more than a week, an extraordinary run even by local standards.

Yet what was striking was the way in which people adapted. Banda's more than two million residents - many dependent on farming, construction, transport and other outdoor work - had little option but to endure the heat. They were rearranging their lives around it.

Thirty kilometres from the district headquarters, the vegetable market at Atarra was already winding down before most cities had properly woken up. Farmers arrived at dawn with tomatoes, gourds, chillies, lemons and melons. Everyone wanted to sell their wares quickly and get home before the heat intensified.

"Look at the sun," said Himanshu, a trader standing beside crates of tomatoes. "It's only 6.15am, but it feels like 8-9am."

The heat was shortening the life of his produce as surely as it was shortening the market day. "A box of tomatoes must be sold today or tomorrow. In this weather they won't last."

Where trading once bustled until late morning, activity now faded by 8am. By 10am, the market was almost deserted.

The same compressed timetable governs almost everything in Banda. Between the blazing sky and the scorched ground, people do what Polish journalist Ryszard Kapuściński once observed in another furnace-hot landscape in Africa: devote their energies to "the search for shade and a breeze".

Pappu Verma, a mason, now works from 7am until noon, then again from 4pm until 7pm. The four hours in between are spent waiting for the worst of the heat to pass.

"You still have to complete eight hours," he said. "Whether you work continuously in the sun or stop and start, the pay is the same." The break

saves him from headaches and heat sickness, but stretches his day to 12 or 13 hours. "Otherwise," he shrugged, "whatever I earn would be spent on medicines."

Around 2pm one day last week, when Banda's temperature touched 46C, three women road workers crouched beneath a water tanker on a highway bridge over the Ken river, eating lunch in the sliver of shade cast by its chassis.

One of them, Shanti Devi, walked six kilometres to work every morning and six kilometres back. Her lunch was bread with onion, salt and pickle. "If we bring vegetables, they'll spoil by noon," she said.

Then she offered a sentence that could serve as the motto of Banda's heatwave. "Poor people don't have the luxury of worrying about the heat."

Their refuge above the Ken was fitting. The river lies at the heart of Banda's struggle with heat. Researchers say sand mining and groundwater depletion have weakened its ability to cool the surrounding landscape, creating a vicious cycle in which water scarcity and extreme temperatures reinforce one another.

The heat's economic effects are visible everywhere.

E-rickshaw drivers find afternoons barren of passengers. Shopkeepers open before sunrise and shut between noon and 4pm. Customers have halved. Entire towns retreat indoors during the fiercest hours, emerging again only in the evening.

Mobile phones buzz repeatedly with government alerts warning of severe heatwave conditions. Stay alert, stay cautious, the messages warn.

Local hospitals are seeing a steady stream of heatwave patients. "Since the heat intensified, we have been getting 15-20 cases a day, mostly children and the elderly," said K Kumar, chief medical superintendent of the Women's District Hospital. "The most common symptoms are diarrhoea, vomiting and fever."

Banda's ordeal is a local expression of a broader trend. Across India, heat is increasingly arriving not merely as high temperatures but as a combination of heat and humidity that places greater stress on the human body.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): Get out into the world and have some fun. The Sun in the most open area of your chart will make it easy for you to connect with people, be they friends, loved ones or total strangers. Your outgoing personality will be much in demand.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): You may be wondering why, after all the time and effort you put into your work, you have so little to show for it. Don't worry. Today's Sun-Saturn link indicates that good things are coming your way and will be well worth waiting for.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): Today's link between the Sun in your sign and Saturn, planet of limitation, will help you slow down a bit and make sure you do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time. A little self-discipline will go a long way.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): The ambitious side of your nature will come to the fore today and you won't be content to do just a good job, it must be great. You will, however, have to accept that not everyone can match your drive to be the best at what you do.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): If you are going to get along with people today you may have to keep some emotional distance between you, simply because you cannot afford to get caught up in their petty dramas. What seems important to them will be incredibly boring for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): Do you have a sensible plan to take you from where you are now to where you most want to be? If you just throw yourself at life over the next few days the only direction you will be heading is down, so be smart and look ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): You are in the midst of a highly positive phase and you must make the most of it. Today's Sun-Saturn link will encourage you to believe that the more of an effort you make the more rewards you will enjoy, and that's good because it's true.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): The challenges you face over the days and weeks to come might be too much for some people but you will find they actually inspire you to push past barriers and establish a new personal best. You're one of life's winners.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): The fact that you fell out with a friend or loved one recently means nothing. The one and only thing that matters is your willingness to get over this little tiff and get your partnership back on track. Be the first to say "sorry".

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): It does not matter how much pressure others put you under today you won't crack. In fact, you will come right back at them and turn the heat in their direction. Capricorn is a cardinal sign, which means you are never beaten.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): What do you want most from life? Give it some thought and then go out and get it. Today's Sun-Saturn link will give you the drive and determination you need to stay the course and create something the whole world will applaud.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): You may have bent over backwards to help someone in need but don't expect any thanks. That's okay. When doing good deeds the important thing is that you do them from the goodness of your own heart, not for the praise you might receive.

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CARICOM foreign ministers condemn intensified US measures against Cuba

Foreign affairs ministers from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Wednesday voiced “profound concern” over what they described as escalating economic, commercial, and financial measures imposed on Cuba by the United States.

However, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago reserved their positions from the collective statement issued by the CARICOM Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR).

The two countries are members of the US-led Shield of the Americas alliance, a regional security initiative launched in March 2026 involving 17 countries across the Western Hemisphere focused on intelligence sharing, counter-narcotics operations, transnational organized crime, and migration security cooperation.

In its statement, COFCOR said the growing economic pressure on Cuba was worsening humanitarian conditions and affecting Caribbean nationals residing or studying there.

“The mounting hardships facing the Cuban people also seriously impact CARICOM nationals studying and living in Cuba, whose well-being remains a priority for the Community,” the ministers said.

The regional bloc criticized additional measures announced by Donald Trump, whose administration recently issued an executive order targeting foreign participation in the Cuban economy.

Trump stated that the “policies, practices, and actions” of Cuba were harmful to the United States and incompatible with “the moral and political values of free and democratic societies.”

Among the measures announced were expanded restrictions aimed at preventing foreign entities and individuals from operating within sectors of the Cuban economy, subject to determinations by the US Treasury and State Departments.

The latest actions build on the decades-old US trade and economic embargo against Havana.

Earlier this month, US authorities also announced criminal charges against former Cuban President Raúl Castro, including allegations related to conspiracy to kill US nationals, destruction of an aircraft, and murder.

COFCOR said Washington’s latest actions deepen the impact of sanctions that have been in place for more than six decades.

“These measures compound the trade and economic embargo imposed on Cuba for over six decades, which



Cubans line up for food in Havana

has had a deleterious effect on the lives and livelihoods of the Cuban people,” the statement said.

The ministers also condemned attempts to disrupt Cuba’s energy supplies, warning that such actions were contributing to a worsening humanitarian crisis.

“COFCOR unequivocally affirms Cuba’s sovereign right to import and receive fuel, and condemns the obstruction of energy supplies to Cuba, which has precipitated a grave humanitarian crisis,” the statement added.

The regional body further warned against any potential military escalation involving Cuba, reaffirming CARICOM’s longstanding position that the Caribbean should remain a “Zone of Peace.”

“COFCOR reaffirms the need for the preservation of the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and expresses alarm at recent statements that suggest the possibility of military aggression against the Republic of Cuba,” the ministers said.

They warned that any military ac-

tion would destabilize regional security and inflict unnecessary suffering throughout the Caribbean.

The ministers also reiterated annual positions taken by the overwhelming majority of United Nations member states opposing the US embargo, arguing that Cuba “poses no threat to any nation” and remains a cooperative member of the international community. According to COFCOR, the continued use of unilateral sanctions against Cuba represents “an unjustifiable violation of human rights...”

St Lucian PM cautious on calls for return of death penalty

Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre says his government will have to think “very, very carefully” about any move to resume capital punishment in Saint Lucia, as public pressure grows following the killing of a young mother last week.

The debate intensified after the fatal shooting of a 24-year-old woman whose bullet-riddled body was discovered in the driver’s seat of a vehicle. Authorities say her estranged husband has since surrendered to police.

The case has sparked renewed calls for the return of hanging, with a petition reportedly gaining significant public support urging the government to actively consider reinstating executions.

Addressing the issue during a post-Cabinet news conference, Pierre acknowledged the emotional and political weight surrounding the matter, noting that many citizens have approached him demanding the return of capital punishment.

“That is a serious, serious issue in the country. Every day, someone tells me, bring back hanging every day,” Pierre said.

“It’s complex, it has become an international issue, and there are countries who suffer reprisals if they introduce again.”

St. Lucia’s last execution took place on October 17,

1995, when convicted murderer Joseph Solomon was hanged. Since then, the country has maintained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty, although three people currently remain on death row.

Pierre said the issue involves legal, ethical, religious, and international considerations, and stressed that his administration is not prepared to announce a position at this time.

“It’s a matter that we have to think of very, very carefully. I will not venture to give an opinion on it now,” he said, while also noting that the Roman Catholic Church opposes capital punishment.

“Many, many people in the country are asking for the return of hanging, of capital punishment,” Pierre added. “People are saying you can move from hanging to the lethal injection.”

The prime minister also reflected on broader concerns surrounding justice and wrongful convictions, referencing what he described as a longstanding legal principle that “it’s better a million men go free than one innocent man gets punished.”

“We come from a history where people were just accused of doing things that they never did. People were lynched for committing a crime,” he said.

Grenada opposition party ushers in new era as Emmalin Pierre re-elected leader

Opposition Leader Emmalin Pierre has been re-elected as leader of Grenada's main opposition New National Party (NNP), while former prime minister Dr. Keith Mitchell has stepped down as chairman of the party he founded, marking what the party described as a "definitive shifting of the guard."

Pierre was returned unopposed during the NNP's convention on Sunday, where party delegates also elected a new executive team as part of what the organization called its "New Generation" vision.

"This convention represents a seamless, democratic bridge from our rich legacy to our bright future," Pierre said following her re-election. "The NNP stands more unified, modernized, and energized than ever before to serve the people of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique."

In a statement, the NNP said the convention had "officially ushered in a historic new chapter of leadership" grounded in a commitment to structural modernization and a genuine passing of the torch to a new generation of leaders.

The party said the newly elected executive team reflects a blend of experience and emerging political talent, including attorney Dylan J. Charles, who was elected general secretary.

Pierre's re-election comes amid a broader transition within the opposition party, with Mitchell relinquishing the chairmanship after decades at the helm of the organization.



Emmalin Pierre — re-elected leader of the NNP

Mitchell, who turns 80 in November, is Grenada's longest-serving prime minister, having led the country from 1995 to 2008 and again from 2013 to 2022.

The veteran politician founded the NNP and served as its leader for more than 35 years before announcing ahead of the party's 2024 convention that he would not seek re-election to the post.

He was succeeded as party leader by Dr. Adrian Joseph, who was named earlier this year as the NNP's caretaker for the St. George North West constituency, which Mitchell has represented for decades.

The NNP suffered a major electoral setback in June 2022 when Mitchell called a snap general election. The party, which had held all 15 seats

in Parliament, won only six seats, with the remaining nine going to the governing National Democratic Congress (NDC). In its statement following Sunday's convention, the NNP said Pierre's re-election, coupled with changes to the party's leadership structure, signals a new phase in its development as it seeks to rebuild and position itself for future elections.

Bahamas imposes travel ban on visitors from Africa

The Government of the Bahamas has announced a 30-day ban on travellers who have recently visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan amid heightened international concern over the spread of Ebola.

The government said the restriction takes immediate effect and is being implemented as a precautionary public health measure aimed at protecting residents and visitors.

"The decision has been taken as a precautionary public measure guided by the responsibility of the government to protect residents, visitors and the wider community," officials said in a statement.

Authorities said the measure will remain in place for 30 days but could be reviewed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness depending on developments in the global health situation.

The announcement comes days after Bahamian health authorities confirmed that two foreign nationals who recently travelled from the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been placed



3 African countries are facing Ebola outbreaks

in isolation after presenting with fevers.

Officials later said the symptoms subsided and that the men were not displaying signs consistent with Ebola Virus Disease.

"At this time, they do not present with any symptoms consistent with Ebola Virus Disease," the ministry said, while stressing that there are currently no confirmed Ebola cases in The Bahamas.

Health Minister Michael Darville

said the two individuals remain in isolation while testing continues.

"All of the necessary testing is taking place and once that is complete, we will notify the media," Darville said, adding that both men were doing well.

Ebola is a rare but often fatal disease caused by viruses belonging to the Orthoebolavirus group. Symptoms can include fever, severe headaches, fatigue, muscle pain, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, and abdominal pain, with severe cases potentially leading to internal and external bleeding.



InterContinental to open luxury beachfront resort in Grenada in 2026

InterContinental Hotels & Resorts has announced plans to open InterContinental Grenada–La Sagesse, a new beachfront luxury resort set along La Sagesse Bay on Grenada’s southeastern coast, with an expected opening in November 2026.

The development will be part of IHG Hotels & Resorts’ luxury and lifestyle portfolio and is being positioned as a flagship Caribbean property aimed at blending international luxury standards with distinctly Grenadian culture, landscape, and hospitality.

The resort will feature 120 guest rooms and suites, each designed with views of either the bay or the wider resort grounds. Developers say the design concept is rooted in contemporary Caribbean living, incorporating natural textures, coastal inspiration, and open spaces intended to reflect the island’s rhythm and environment.

According to the company, the property is intended to offer a “sophisticated yet relaxed” interpretation of luxury travel in the Caribbean, combining high-end amenities with a strong sense of place.

“Grenada is one of the Caribbean’s most captivating and naturally beautiful destinations, and InterContinental Grenada-La Sagesse has been thoughtfully designed to reflect the island’s rich culture, natural beauty, and spirit of discovery,” said George Vlachopoulos, Area General Manager.

He added that the resort is intended to provide “thoughtful service and meaningful connection,” positioning it as a new benchmark for luxury tourism on the island.

The resort will introduce five distinct dining and beverage concepts, each designed to highlight both local and international influences.

Mosaic, the all-day dining restaurant, will focus on locally sourced ingredients and Caribbean cuisine with a modern interpretation. Coralie, an open-air signature restaurant, will offer a Mediterranean-inspired fine dining experience. Solara, a rooftop bar, will feature ocean views paired with curated cocktails and small plates designed for sunset dining.

Additional outlets include Cove, a pool and spa bar offering light meals and refreshments, and Café Amber, a casual grab-and-go venue serving coffee, pastries, and house-made items.



The Intercontinental Hotel and Resort is scheduled for a November 2026 opening

InterContinental Grenada–La Sagesse is also being developed as a major meetings and events destination, with more than 20,000 square feet of flexible indoor and outdoor space.

The resort will include what developers describe as the only ballroom of its kind in Grenada, alongside signature venues such as Royal Palm and Bougainvillea, designed to host corporate retreats, incentive travel groups, weddings, and large-scale celebrations.

Officials say the property will also offer full buyout options for groups seeking exclusive use of the resort, along with tailored services for international event requirements, including specialized dietary accommodations such as Kosher facilities.

Wellness will be a central feature of the resort, with a full-service spa, fitness facilities including Pilates reformers, and curated relaxation

programming.

Guests will also have access to a wide range of recreational activities, including water sports, beach experiences, cultural and culinary excursions, and island tours. A dedicated kids’ club will cater to families traveling with younger guests.

Located in the La Sagesse area, the resort is designed for both international travelers and local residents seeking premium hospitality experiences. It will sit adjacent to Six Senses La Sagesse, creating a dual-branded luxury corridor intended to expand the

island’s high-end tourism offering.

Developers say the pairing will allow guests to access a wider ecosystem of dining, wellness, and lifestyle experiences across both properties, creating what they describe as a layered hospitality destination unique in Grenada.

The project comes as global hotel groups continue expanding into smaller Caribbean markets, betting on sustained demand for high-end, experience-driven travel in the post-pandemic tourism landscape.

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St. Vincent announces emergency measures to offset rising global prices

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Godwin Friday on Wednesday unveiled a sweeping 90-day emergency package aimed at shielding consumers and businesses from rising global fuel, electricity, freight, and commodity prices, while acknowledging that his administration inherited an economy “in shambles” six months ago.

In a 30-minute national address, Friday said the measures were designed to cushion the impact of worsening international market conditions while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

“This 90-day emergency package is a fiscally responsible shield against extraordinary global pressures,” Friday said, adding that the government’s National Cost of Living Task Force would monitor prices weekly to ensure businesses pass savings on to consumers.

“These measures must reach the people, not simply improve business profit margins,” he added.

The prime minister said his administration recognized the growing anxiety among Vincentians over the rising cost of living but insisted the country was not powerless in the face of global economic challenges.

“You will not face these challenges alone,” Friday said. “Together, we will move from pressure to progress, from uncertainty to stability, and from rescue to resilience.”

Central to the package are temporary reductions in taxes and charges on fuel imports to offset dramatic increases in international oil prices.

Friday said current global market conditions would have pushed gasoline prices from EC\$13.22 per gallon to approximately EC\$18.82 without government intervention. Diesel prices, he said, would have risen from EC\$12.56 to roughly EC\$17.71 per gallon.

To soften the impact, the government is immediately reducing excise taxes and cutting the customs service charge on imported petroleum products by 50 percent for three months.

“Without this intervention, a standard vehicle owner would have seen fuel costs jump higher in a single month,” Friday said.

He argued that the measures would prevent St. Vincent and the Grenadines from becoming one of the most expensive countries in the Eastern Caribbean for fuel.

The government also announced relief measures aimed at reducing pressure on electricity bills amid rising fuel costs affecting power generation by VINLEC.

Friday said the administration would completely remove customs service charges and excise taxes on diesel used for electricity generation, representing approximately EC\$1.65 million in foregone government revenue over the next three months.



St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Godwin Friday

venue over the next three months.

In addition, VINLEC will be required to share the burden through a matching discount mechanism tied to the fuel surcharge.

Under the arrangement, when the fuel surcharge exceeds EC\$0.71 per kilowatt hour, the utility company will contribute a 50 percent matching discount. If the surcharge rises above EC\$0.77 per kilowatt hour, VINLEC will provide a full matching contribution.

“For households, this intervention means relief on utility bills and protection against runaway increases,” Friday said.

He added that the measures would also help protect small businesses such as restaurants, shops, bakeries, and manufacturers from escalating operating costs.

The government also announced a full removal of customs service charges on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), commonly used for cooking.

Friday said international LPG prices have increased by 27 percent since January, and without intervention, families would face significantly higher costs for cooking gas cylinders.

By removing the tax entirely, the government expects to absorb more than EC\$500,000 in lost revenue during the 90-day period.

“We will protect the dinner table of Vincentian families,” Friday said.

The administration is also moving to reduce inflation linked to global

shipping costs.

Friday said freight charges for imported goods have surged sharply this year, with the cost of shipping a standard 20-foot container from the United States to Kingstown rising from as low as EC\$2,200 earlier this year to as much as EC\$4,800.

To address the issue, the government will remove shipping surcharges from customs tax calculations and benchmark freight rates used for taxation purposes to January 2026 levels.

“Even if a shipping company charges EC\$4,800 for a container, the government will calculate the taxes as if the freight rates were still at January levels,” he explained.

Officials say the move is intended to reduce the landing costs of imported goods and slow the pass-through of international inflation to consumers.

Friday also announced additional measures aimed at strengthening long-

term economic resilience, including subsidized seeds and a 30 percent discount on fertilizer for local farmers to boost domestic food production and reduce dependence on imports.

The government is also considering a VAT waiver on cement if construction costs continue rising sharply.

In the energy sector, the administration plans to maintain its full tax waiver on solar photovoltaic systems while accelerating efforts to transition toward renewable energy.

“We want to use this new oil crisis as an opportunity forced upon us to move aggressively towards renewable energy production, especially solar,” Friday said.

He added that discussions were continuing with regional partners through Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to secure more stable government-to-government energy arrangements.

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JA's INDECOM chief calls for overhaul of police body camera deployment

The head of Jamaica's police oversight agency is urging a major shift in how body-worn cameras are deployed across the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), arguing that the technology is not being used where accountability and transparency are needed most.

Speaking at a policy roundtable hosted by the advocacy group Jamaicans For Justice (JFJ) at The Courtleigh Hotel & Suites in New Kingston last week, Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) Commissioner Hugh Faulkner said the current deployment strategy places most body-worn cameras with officers assigned to the Public Safety and Traffic Enforcement Branch.

According to Faulkner, those officers primarily operate in commercial areas where incidents are often captured by surveillance cameras and witnessed by members of the public.

"Indecom is of the considered view that this deployment pattern is fundamentally incongruent with the operational and legal imperative facing the JCF and, by extension, Jamaica, particularly given the current high and deeply concerning incidents of police-involved fatalities," he said.

Faulkner argued that body-worn cameras should instead be prioritized for officers involved in planned operations, including tactical teams conducting high-risk arrests, firearms raids, and search warrant executions.

He said such operations frequently involve encounters between armed police officers and suspects and often take place in locations where there are no independent witnesses or surveillance systems.



Jamaica's police oversight agency wants officers to wear body cameras like this one

"It is precisely in these settings that are known to be devoid of CCTV, JamaicaEye, or independent eyewitnesses that body-worn cameras are not merely desirable but imperative," Faulkner said.

The commissioner acknowledged the dangers faced by police officers, noting that they routinely confront armed gangs, organized criminal net-

works, contract killings, extortion schemes, and escalating firearm violence.

However, he stressed that the exercise of police powers must remain subject to scrutiny.

"No democratic society can ignore the equally important reality that the State's coercive powers must always be exercised transparently, lawfully, pro-

portionately, and subject to objective review," he said.

Faulkner noted that the police high command recently disclosed that approximately 1,500 body-worn cameras are deployed daily across the force, a move he said demonstrates recognition by both the Government and the JCF of the role technology plays in modern policing.



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Joseph eyes Sri Lanka series as recovery journey nears finish line

After months of rehabilitation, frustration, and watching from afar, West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph says he is finally closing in on the return he has spent nearly a year fighting to achieve.

The 29-year-old Antiguan pacer is back in the regional setup at Cricket West Indies' high-performance white-ball camp at Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua, where preparations are intensifying ahead of next month's limited-overs series against Sri Lanka.

For Joseph, however, the camp represents far more than routine preparation. It marks the latest step in a demanding comeback journey after a lower back injury forced him out of competitive cricket during the latter stages of 2025 and sidelined him from the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

Known for his aggression, pace, and relentless competitiveness, Joseph admitted the extended absence tested him mentally as much as physically.

"It hurts having to watch on TV and unable to help my teammates," Joseph said. "It was a tough period having to sit down and not contribute, but I had to focus on rehabilitation, strengthening and conditioning to get back into peak form."

The injury interruption came at a difficult time for the fast bowler, who has long been viewed as one of the Caribbean's premier pace prospects and a central figure in the future of West Indies cricket.

Yet despite the lengthy rehabilitation process, Joseph says the work behind the scenes has already begun to



West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph

pay dividends.

Since rejoining the training environment, Joseph believes his body is

responding positively, with the time away helping him rebuild both physically and mentally.

The fast bowler said he already feels fitter and stronger as he works toward regaining full match sharpness ahead of international selection.

Even with an established résumé that includes becoming the youngest West Indian to take a five-wicket haul in One-Day Internationals, as well as the fastest regional player to reach 100 ODI wickets, Joseph insists he is still far from the finished product.

"You can always improve and get better. I never think I'm at my best. There are always skills I can work on," Joseph said.

Joseph also spoke enthusiastically about the emerging West Indies pace battery, which now features talents such as Jayden Seales, Shamar Joseph, and Matthew Forde.

Together, he believes the group has the talent and ambition to restore the Caribbean side's reputation as one of world cricket's most feared bowling attacks.

"We want to be the best in the world," Joseph said. "I want to challenge for World Cups and leave West Indies cricket in a better position than when I came in."

The ongoing Cricket West Indies training camp concludes on May 31, with attention now turning toward the Sri Lanka series, which bowls off on June 3 at Sabina Park.

For Joseph, the series could represent not only a long-awaited return to international cricket, but also the beginning of a renewed chapter in a career he hopes can still help carry West Indies cricket back to the top of the global game.

JA's Blaise Bicknell eyes historic home breakthrough

Jamaican tennis star Blaise Bicknell is preparing for what could become one of the defining moments of his career as Jamaica gets ready to host the historic Kingston Open in August 2026.

The Kingston Open will mark the first ATP Challenger tournament ever staged in the English-speaking Caribbean, placing Jamaica firmly on the international tennis calendar. Scheduled for August 16-29, the tournament will feature back-to-back ATP Challenger 75 events, with players competing for valuable ATP ranking points and more than US\$214,000 in prize money.

For Bicknell, Jamaica's top-ranked male tennis player, the tournament carries significance far beyond competition.

"It's special to have this opportunity at home. Growing up in Jamaica, you dream about competing at a high level in front of your own people. The Kingston Open is going to inspire a lot of young players across the Caribbean," Bicknell said.

Born in Kingston, the 24-year-old has steadily built his reputation on the international tennis circuit over the past

several years. After playing collegiate tennis at the University of Florida and the University of Tennessee, Bicknell has gone on to represent Jamaica in Davis Cup competition while climbing the ATP rankings.

He reached a career-high ATP singles ranking of No. 306 in May 2024 and currently sits just outside the world's top 320 players.

Bicknell's breakthrough came in 2024 when he captured his first ATP Challenger title at the Southern California Open in Indian Wells, a victory widely viewed as a milestone for Jamaican tennis.

In 2026, he has continued to post strong performances in tournaments across the United States, Mexico, Côte d'Ivoire and the Republic of Congo as he pushes toward returning to the ATP Top 300.

As preparations intensify for the Kingston Open, Bicknell said his focus extends beyond physical preparation.

"Tennis is not just physical. You have to prepare mentally, emotionally, and physically because every match

challenges you differently. I've been working hard on my fitness, recovery, discipline, and staying mentally strong under pressure," he said.

He added that managing emotional well-being is equally important during the demanding professional tour schedule.

"When you travel constantly and compete every week, your emotional health matters too. I have learned that rest, family support, proper recovery, and staying grounded are just as important as training sessions," Bicknell explained.

Bicknell said his playing style has been influenced by Jamaican-German tennis player Dustin Brown, whose flair and fearless approach inspired many Caribbean players.

"Dustin Brown inspired a lot of us from the Caribbean. He played with freedom, flair, and confidence. Seeing somebody with Jamaican roots compete against the biggest names in tennis showed me that it was possible," Bicknell said.

Brown became internationally

known after defeating Rafael Nadal at Wimbledon in 2015 and reaching a career-high ATP ranking of No. 64.

Bicknell also pointed to Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic as players he studies for their movement, discipline and mental toughness.

Organisers believe the Kingston Open could become a major catalyst for tennis development, youth opportunities and sports tourism in Jamaica and across the Caribbean.

Sports administrator O'Neil Walters, tournament administrator for PPIV-OTT LLC, said the event represents far more than tennis.

"This tournament is bigger than tennis. The Kingston Open is about youth development, economic activity, tourism, international exposure, and positioning Jamaica as a destination capable of hosting world-class sporting events," Walters said.

He added that the tournament could help create pathways for young Caribbean athletes seeking professional opportunities in the sport.



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President Ali mobilises national response as heavy rainfall triggers flooding

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and members of his cabinet have deployed across the country to assess flooding caused by unusually heavy rainfall, as the government intensifies its response to affected communities.

Speaking during an assessment in Region Three on Saturday morning, President Ali said the government is closely monitoring the situation and has activated a coordinated national response involving regional administrations, drainage and irrigation authorities, and emergency agencies.

The volume of rainfall recorded in recent days has been significantly above normal levels, resulting in overtopping of drains, water accumulation in low-lying areas, and flooding in several communities.

“We are seeing very high and unusual rainfall patterns across the country, and as a government, we are on the ground ensuring that every agency is working together to bring relief and support to residents,” President Ali said.

The president explained that teams have been dispatched to assess damage, identify urgent interventions, and ensure that drainage systems are functioning effectively.

He said additional pumps and resources were being mobilised where necessary to accelerate the removal of floodwaters.

Cabinet ministers have also been assigned to various regions to engage residents directly, monitor conditions and coordinate relief efforts with local authorities.

President Ali assured citizens that the government would continue to provide support to affected families and communities, while maintaining close surveillance of weather conditions and water levels.

He emphasised that public infrastructure agencies were working around the clock to clear drainage channels, operate pumps and address critical areas experiencing flooding.

The president urged residents to remain vigilant, heed advisories issued



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali in Region Three

by relevant authorities and report areas requiring immediate attention.

“We will continue to be present in the communities, assess the situation

firsthand, and ensure that all necessary resources are deployed to safeguard lives and livelihoods,” he stated. [DPI]

Finance Minister challenges local firms to become regional conglomerates

GUYANESE companies should be aggressively pursuing opportunities beyond the country’s borders, and positioning themselves to become the regional conglomerates of tomorrow, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance Dr. Ashni Singh said on Friday.

Delivering the feature address on behalf of President Irfaan Ali at the Private Sector Commission (PSC)’s 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, Dr. Singh urged local businesses to take advantage of the country’s economic transformation and expand into new markets.

“There are a lot of Guyanese companies here that have the capacity to expand their footprint outside of Guyana; and you know that President Ali’s vision for Guyana is a Guyana where we are leading not only the region but the world. And a part of that journey of getting, in the shortest possible time, to a place where we are leading the world must surely involve looking beyond Guyana’s borders for opportunities to expand into new markets to sell our products,” Dr. Singh advised.

The minister reminded business leaders that Guyanese companies had successfully expanded into regional markets long before the country’s current period of prosperity, and under far more difficult circumstances.

“A hundred years ago, Guyanese insurance companies (some of our oldest insurance companies) established a presence in the Caribbean in an era when you didn’t have the Internet, and when you probably didn’t even have airplane travel, and you had to travel by a mail



Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh

boat to go to a Caribbean island. Companies like Guyana Trinidad Mutual Life (GTM), Demerara Life, Guyanese insurance companies, they established a presence throughout the Caribbean in an era when you probably didn’t even have telephones,” he said.

According to Dr. Singh, the current period of strong economic growth presents an ideal opportunity for local companies to position themselves for expansion.

“There is a saying; we use it particularly in relation to economic policy, it has broader connotations and applications, that you must fix the roof while the sun is shining. I want you to reflect on that; I think it would be fair to say that as far as things economic are concerned, as far as the business environment is concerned, the sun is currently shining very brightly in Guyana and very brightly on your respective businesses,” he told the gathering.

The Finance Minister also challenged businesses to improve the quality

of services offered to customers, noting that economic development must be accompanied by improvements in consumer experiences.

“There is still a lot of room for us to improve the quality of service that we deliver. And I want to say at the onset that we recognise that imperative in government. We recognise, as I have always said and that President Ali has always said, that the transformation of Guyana must not only be a transformation that we see physically, but it must be a transformation in our daily experience in interacting with institutions of State,” he said.

Dr. Singh pointed to the government’s aggressive digitisation agenda as part of efforts to improve service delivery across the country and said the same commitment should be embraced by the private sector.

Meanwhile, French Ambassador to Guyana Olivier Plançon congratulated Guyana on its 60th Independence Anniversary, and relayed a message from

President Emmanuel Macron, reaffirming France’s commitment to Guyana’s sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with international law.

The ambassador noted that there has been growing interest among French companies in investing in Guyana. He also highlighted efforts to streamline the Schengen visa process, and commended moves to establish an air route linking Georgetown, Paramaribo, and Cayenne.

“I am very optimistic about the growth of our relations,” Ambassador Plançon said.

PSC Chairman Mr. Gerald Gouveia Jr. reflected on the organisation’s priorities since assuming leadership, including protecting democracy and stability, promoting Guyana internationally, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

“Over the past years, we have worked and built those goals together,” Gouveia said.

He recalled the challenges surrounding the 2020 elections, describing it as a period of uncertainty that affected investor confidence and businesses.

“That is a period of history that we must never forget,” he said.

Gouveia noted that the PSC organised one of the largest groups of election observers in 2025 to help safeguard democracy, transparency, and public confidence.

Turning his attention to Guyana’s growing international profile, he said the country has now taken centre stage on global forums, and continues to attract increasing international attention and investment opportunities.



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