

Proudly the largest weekly Caribbean Newspaper in Canada for 48 years

Equality

MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE **\$1.00**

SERVING, CARIBBEAN, EAST ASIANS, GUYANESE, JAMAICANS, TRINIS AND MORE. 416 759 6397



Vettyvel Law
Professional Corporation
2225 Markham Road -Suite 203
Scarborough on. M1B 0E6

- Real Estate Law (Residential & Commercial)
- Wills & Estates
- Corporate & Commercial Law

Rishani Vettyvel, BBA, LLB, LLM
Barrister & Solicitor
Direct 416 261 1544 Fax. 416 291 1544
rishani@vettyvellaw.com



Vettyvel Law
Professional Corporation

1457 McCowan Road, Suite 204
1-- 203-Markham Rd.
Scarborough Ontario M1B 0E6

Our Practice Areas:

- Real Estate Law
 - Residential
 - Commercial
- Wills and Estates
- Corporate & Commercial Law

More in next issue

Rishani Vettyvel, BBA, LLB, LLM
Barrister and Solicitor
Direct 416 261 1544
fax. 416 291 1544

email: rishani@vettyvellaw.com



Thursday October 8 2026. Volume 48, Issue #41 www.equalitynews.ca. For advertising, call 647-216-2359



\$20B financing in Development Bank

The newly operationalised Guyana Development Bank is being positioned as a catalyst for a new wave of entrepreneurial and productive activity, with more than G\$20 billion budgeted for financing small businesses.

Speaking in an interview on Monday, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh (pictured), said the allocation is not simply an injection of capital, but is intended to stimulate sustainable businesses and livelihoods across the country.

Dr Singh said the funding available through the bank is intended to help establish and expand small businesses, while creating a pathway for entrepreneurs to build sustainable enterprises and eventually graduate into the traditional financial

system. "This initiative is intended to achieve a completely new wave of entrepreneurial and productive activity in Guyana."

More stories inside



NAREI gets \$60M worth of vehicles

Agriculture Minister Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha has handed over approximately G\$60 million in vehicles to the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) to strengthen its extension services and enhance national surveillance, monitoring and control of the Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF).

The fleet comprises five pickup trucks, six All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and 12 motorcycles and was procured under the Agricultural Infrastructure Development Programme (AIDP), for which the Cooperative Republic of Guyana received financing from the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF).

During the handing-over exercise, Minister Mustapha underscored NAREI's critical role in supporting the development and modernisation of Guyana's agriculture sector through research, extension and technical support to farmers.

"NAREI is the premier research institution in this country. We have been ensuring that NAREI has the facilities and is well equipped to provide the necessary guidance and services as we advance our food security efforts," Minister Mustapha said.

He noted that strengthening institutions such as NAREI forms part of the Government's wider food-security agenda and its efforts to position Guyana as a major agricultural producer within the Caribbean.

"Our President, as you know, is placing a lot of emphasis on food security, not only at the local level, but also at the regional level. We want Guyana to be the premier food producer in CARICOM, and we are moving aggressively in those efforts," he said. Minister Mustapha pointed to the significant increase in public investment in

agriculture over the years, noting that the sector's budget has grown from approximately G\$18 billion to G\$113 billion in 2026.

Manulife Wealth

Isa M. Rahamat
Financial Advisor
905-605-7400 x 110
416-346-8883
Get in touch for a free portfolio review if you have \$100K or more in investable assets
isa.rahamat@manulifewealth.ca
See our ad on Page 2



Elect Norman MacLeod as your City Councillor in Ward 13

See ad on Page 4

L.R. IMMIGRATION CONSULTING INC.
Specializing in all areas of Canadian Immigration

- Express entry
- Work permits, LMIA
- Humanitarian and Refugee
- Appeals & Admissibility
- Deportation & Detention
- Loss of Residence Status
- Misrepresentations
- Sponsorships, Spousal & family class, supervise, TRPs

Lisa Ramkissoon, RCIC Member of ICCRC
1058A Albion Rd., Etobicoke ON
416-749-5559

NORMAN HAMILTON

Best choice for Ward 1



ASTROLOGER & SPIRITUAL HEALER
PANDIT: KRISHNAM RAJU
Expert in Reading Palm Face and Horoscope
HE WILL REMOVE BLACK MAGIC, JADOO & PROTECT YOU FROM ALL EVILS
MASTER BRINGS BACK LOVED ONES
HE CAN HANDLE ANY PROBLEM
ALL RELIGIONS WELCOME
PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

437-213-3305
2643 Eglinton Ave E, Scarborough M1K 2S2
(Inside Convenience Store) Brimley & Eglinton

New York memorial celebrates Mighty Sparrow's extraordinary life

Family, friends and admirers of Calypso King of the World Slinger Francisco, better known as the Mighty Sparrow, celebrated the man behind the legend at a memorial service in New York Sunday.

His daughter Gina Francisco reflected on her father's final years, recalling how the man who once travelled the globe eventually relied on others to carry him, yet never complained.

The service at Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church drew fellow musicians, politicians, diplomats, clerics and supporters from across the Caribbean diaspora.

Francisco said her father treated

those around him warmly and deeply valued his family. She joked that, with 14 children, she could not remember all their names. One of his greatest lessons, she said, was humility.

"The greatest thing that I think that he did, because it was a very humbling experience to watch my father being carried. He couldn't walk. He had to be carried, and he was very uncomplaining."

She added: "I've seen my father change over the years. He was very uncomplaining, and his world became smaller and smaller and smaller. You're looking at a man who travelled the world, and then he's kind of limited to where he is, and he never complained."



A funeral for the Mighty Sparrow was held on Sunday in New York

Francisco said sharing her father with the world sometimes frustrated her and her siblings, but she eventually came to appreciate his impact on generations of people.

"He taught me how to be at peace with whatever God gives you," she said.

Among those paying tribute was New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, who described Sparrow as a giant of Caribbean culture whose influence extended far beyond Trinidad and Tobago.

"This is obviously a sad occasion," Williams said, adding that Sparrow's death at 91 also provided an opportunity to celebrate a remarkable life.

"I just want to thank the family because I'm honoured to come to speak about a 91-year-old who lived an amazing life."

He invited mourners to applaud the late calypsonian. "The Calypso Monarch Emeritus, no one can beat him. What he did for our culture is simply amazing and

cannot be overstated."

Williams recalled that Sparrow's name was regarded as "royalty" in his household and in countless others across the Caribbean diaspora.

Yves Abel of Haiti's legendary band Tabou Combo also paid tribute, recalling Sparrow's support for Caribbean artistes and his commitment to regional unity.

"It is an honour for me to be invited to the celebration of the life of Mr Mighty Sparrow, one of the greatest calypso men in the world," Abel said.

He recalled that Sparrow had helped the group in its early years by securing performances at major New York venues.

"When we were 22 years old, 19 years old, playing music in Brooklyn, Mighty Sparrow invited us to some of the greatest venues in New York. He took us to Madison Square Garden, he took us to the Lincoln Center, he took us to Carnegie Hall."

Abel said Sparrow understood that Caribbean people were united by culture despite their linguistic differences.

"Sparrow knew that although we speak different languages based on our colonial backgrounds, we carry one music, and it's from Africa where we all come from."

Sparrow will be accorded a state-assisted funeral in his homeland of Trinidad and Tobago.

A date for the ceremony has not yet been announced.

SORA LAW OFFICE

Sam Ramessar

B.Sc., M.Sc., LL.B., LL.M., CPA (USA & Cda), CA
Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

Tel: 416.953.3370

Fax: 905.457.1356, Email: srlaw@rogers.com

Tax Law | Audit | Objections | Appeals
Court Proceedings Under Income Tax,
GST- HST Mining Tax | Land Transfer Tax
Family Law | Real Estate Law | Estates &
Trusts Wills & Power Of Attorney

Can Arrange To Conduct Audit At My Office



Sam Ramessar

Offices

5484 Tomken Road, Unit #16
Mississauga ON L4W 2Z6

70 Woodland Drive
Wasaga Beach ON L9Z 2V4

Is your long-term plan built for the *long-term*?

Life is full of surprises, but with the right preparation, you can approach each moment with confidence. Our mission is to craft personalized strategies that are designed to evolve with you, aiming to help your plans stay aligned with your goals.

Get in touch to explore personalized plans tailored to your individual needs.



Isa M. Rahamat
Financial Advisor
905-605-7400 ext.110
416-346-8883
isa.rahamat@manulifewealth.ca
5451 Highway 7, Suite 206
Woodbridge, On L4L 0B2

Get in touch for a free portfolio review if you have \$100K or more in investable assets. With over 25 years of experience advising clients, we're here to help.



Manulife
Wealth

Manulife, Manulife & Stylized M Design, Stylized M Design, and Manulife Wealth are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under license.

Ethnic Vision Immigration Services

- Specialist in Refugee Matters
- Appeals
- Family Sponsorship
- Student Visas
- Study Permits

Ritu V Sharma
RCIC#R510878
Consultant
416-799-2106



Nandlall rejects talk of proposed MV Barima compensation

Attorney General Anil Nandlall Tuesday night dismissed reports that the government was proposing compensation to survivors and relatives of passengers and crew members who drowned when the ferry MV Barima sank more than two months ago.

“It is important to emphasise that, at this stage, no financial offer of compensation has been made to any survivor or family. Statements that a specific sum has already been offered to any person are wholly untrue,” he said on his Facebook programme, “Issues In The News.”

He discouraged Guyanese from paying attention to “reckless and irresponsible” persons who were maligning a distinguished team of lawyers in an attempt to be duped by other lawyers who were allegedly “canvassing for their retainers.”

He said the legal team has cautioned that false reports about purported financial offers would lead to confusion, anxiety and mistrust among persons who are attempting to navigate already difficult circumstances.

Mr Nandlall said under the presidential HEART (Hope, Empathy, Aid, Resilience and Trust) initiative, Guyana has hired a team of independent lawyers, led by Belizean former Attorney General Eamon Courtenay, who has already met with survivors and affected relatives of the July 18 tragedy in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica) and in Mabaruma and Port Kaituma in Region One (Barima-Waini).

The Attorney General said he was authorised by the lawyers to say that

“much has been achieved in offering different forms of assistance.”

He also said the lawyers have asked him to say that the survivors and relatives of the deceased participated in those meetings freely and voluntarily.

They were also informed that they would have to sign an agreement should there be any payment.

“The persons, who have met with the lawyers, have been informed in writing so each have (sic) a letter that their participation is voluntary, that they remain free to obtain independent legal advice, that they have also been advised that the terms and conditions applicable to any eventual payment will be set out in an agreement should that arise,” Mr Nandlall said.

The Attorney General did not say what could be some of the key provisions of such an agreement and whether it would mean that recipients would release the government from any additional claims, liabilities or legal action.

Concerns have been raised by the opposition parties A Partnership for National Unity, We Invest in Nationhood and the Alliance For Change that there could be a repeat of agreements inked with surviving family members of the 20 children who died in the Mahdia Secondary School’s girls’ dormitory fire in May, 2023.

Describing the claim by, among others, Opposition Leader Azruddin Mohamed as “inaccurate and malicious”, Mr Nandlall explained that President Irfaan Ali decided that the government avoid allegations of undue influence.

Scott Funeral Home -
West Toronto Chapel:
Compassionate and professional

We know how difficult funeral planning can be on a family. Let us take care of the details, so you can beautifully honour a cherished life with a deeper sense of comfort and connection.

We're here to help.
Call for information:
416-243-0202





Scott Funeral Home
West Toronto Chapel
by Arbor Memorial

1273 Weston Road, Toronto, ON
scottwestonfh.ca



ADVOCATE • JOURNALIST • LEADER

Hello Neighbours,

I'm Maria Voutsinas, and I'm running to be your City Councillor here in Ward 14, Toronto–Danforth. I raised my family here, and I love the diversity, cultures and small businesses that make our community feel like home. Like you, I have watched our city change. The **cost of living** keeps rising. Road **congestion**. Concerns about **safety**. I want to help find solutions we can all live with.

For over 20 years, I have served as Executive Director of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada. From my office at City Hall, I have worked with all levels of government to ensure voices in diverse communities are heard. I know how the system works and how to turn **advocacy** into **action**.

I will be knocking on doors across Toronto–Danforth, listening to what matters to you and working to earn your support.

Let's build a safer, more affordable and more liveable community together.

Maria Voutsinas

VOTEMARIA.CA
Authorized by the official agent for Maria Voutsinas

Guyana on alert for bird flu, amid outbreak in Suriname

Guyana is on high alert for bird flu (H5N1 avian influenza), following an outbreak in neighbouring Suriname where at least 5,000 chickens on a farm were killed by the virus and a remaining 1,000 culled, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha said Wednesday.

“We have a strong mechanism in place, a strong surveillance system. We have checks at various farms so we are working,” he said.

Reporters were reliably informed that the best method of controlling the virus is to cull and bury the infected birds under tightly controlled conditions.

Though word of the virus emerged two weeks ago in Suriname, Mr Mustapha said he on Wednesday learned officially of the presence of the disease from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) after Suriname informed that France-headquartered organisation.

The agriculture minister said the quarantine border controls were also conducting checks and a committee was also conducting regular checks.

Suriname’s ministry of agriculture said daily inspections were being con-



5,000 chickens on a farm in Suriname were killed by the bird flu virus

ducted by the 20 extension officers who were interviewing poultry farmers and assessing farms.

The Times of Suriname reported that samples have been sent to a foreign laboratory through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to determine the virus’s genetic origin,

with results expected within weeks.

The full subtype has not yet been specified.

The deputy director of Suriname’s veterinary service, Gianna Karg, said it was important to determine whether a low-pathogenic or highly pathogenic variant of the avian influenza is in-

volved.

The Suriname Herald reported that Ms Karg said a low-pathogenic variant can be closely monitored, whereas a high pathogenic variant can lead to high mortality among poultry and greater consequences for the food supply.

Elect Norman MacLeod as your Councilor in Ward 13

Norman MacLeod is your only choice of Councilor in Ward 13. In order that youth in Toronto be given a choice over gang activities, our Federal Government wants to pour money into Toronto, and Toronto Media Culture. I was made aware as per representative Patrick Pereira, staffer, Justin Trudeau's Liberal Government, Ministry of Culture.

Liberal Government of Canada, is where Frank McKenna and Justin Trudeau still have a presence.

Frank McKenna, one of our last Finance Ministers and a MacLeod family friend, trusts me, Norman MacLeod.

Justin Trudeau former PMO, had his cottage across the North Miramichi from the Willy Irving, MacLeod camp.

Justin trusts me.

I am still the only man in Toronto Municipal Politics trusted federally and wanted in Toronto council, as insurance against spending Our People's money.

I am trusted, because The Right Hournable Frank McKenna, Pierre Elliot and Justin Trudeau.

Our youth having a choice and way out of gang activities, is my major concern in Toronto. This trust will allow money to flow and smooth out the frictions of an angry youth, and generate more money to Toronto.

Well planned public washroom facilities are required, and will have a public talk back booth feature. This will also promote entertainment lifestyle, while affording opportunity to hold council accountable.



Victory for People
Elect Norman MacLeod Councilor Ward13

Grenadians go to the polls on November 5

Grenada’s Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell formally announced that residents would go to the polls on November 5.

Accompanied by the symbolic blowing of conch shells, he told thousands of supporters of his ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) that they would have an opportunity to re-elect him and his party with a wider majority in the House.

“I have a feeling that my friends want a zero (percent) this time around. They want a fifteen-zero (of elected seats in the House) this time round, or they want minus zero as the people would say,” the Prime Minister said while boasting about efforts his administration had made to ease the cost of consumer items and lower electricity tariffs by providing a subsidy until the end of 2026.

At stake for the estimated 70,000 eligible voters are 15 elected seats, with the main rival being the New National Party (NNP) led by Emmalin Pierre, a teacher by profession, who took over the reins from veteran Grenadian politician and former prime minister Dr Keith Mitchell.

Dr Mitchell, a mathematician, told the final sitting of the House last week that he would most likely be bowing out of active politics after 43 years during which time he presided over improved electricity, water, telecommunications, and sport projects.

For this year’s elections, major issues for the southern Caribbean ‘Spice Isle’ nation, which includes the sister is-

lands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, are rising cost of living and allegations by the NNP of mismanagement and squandermania.

The elections come at a time when a team of government-appointed local and foreign experts has been assessing seismic and other data with the hope of inviting major international companies to explore for oil and gas offshore.

Grenada’s Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell formally announced that residents would go to the polls on November 5.

Accompanied by the symbolic blowing of conch shells, he told thousands of supporters of his ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) that they would have an opportunity to re-elect him and his party with a wider majority in the House.

“I have a feeling that my friends want a zero (percent) this time around. They want a fifteen-zero (of elected seats in the House) this time round, or they want minus zero as the people would say,” the Prime Minister said while boasting about efforts his administration had made to ease the cost of consumer items and lower electricity tariffs by providing a subsidy until the end of 2026.

At stake for the estimated 70,000 eligible voters are 15 elected seats, with the main rival being the New National Party (NNP) led by Emmalin Pierre, a teacher by profession, who took over the reins from veteran Grenadian politician and former prime minister Dr Keith Mitchell.



Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell at a rally

Dr Mitchell, a mathematician, told the final sitting of the House last week that he would most likely be bowing out of active politics after 43 years during which time he presided over improved electricity, water, telecommunications, and sport projects.

For this year’s elections, major issues for the southern Caribbean ‘Spice Isle’ nation, which includes the sister is-

lands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, are rising cost of living and allegations by the NNP of mismanagement and squandermania.

The elections come at a time when a team of government-appointed local and foreign experts has been assessing seismic and other data with the hope of inviting major international companies to explore for oil and gas offshore.

Brazil election goes to run-off as Bolsonaro wins first round

The right-wing Flávio Bolsonaro has won the first round of Brazil’s presidential election, beating the incumbent left-wing President Lula da Silva. But he did not obtain more than 50% of the votes required to win outright.

There will be a run-off vote between these two candidates on 25 October.

Flávio Bolsonaro is the son of the former right-wing president Jair Bolsonaro, who is serving a 27-year prison sentence for masterminding a failed coup attempt after losing the last election.

The election was close, with President Lula polling slightly ahead during the campaign. With 98.81% of the votes

counted, Bolsonaro had 47.24% to Lula’s 44.91% of the vote.

Bolsonaro’s result exceeded expectations, meaning the second round now looks like his to lose, not least because some of the other presidential candidates who were knocked out in the first round were right-wing alternatives.

The majority of Latin America has now elected right-wing presidents,

aligned to the Trump administration, and the run-off will determine whether Brazil – Latin America’s largest country and economy – will follow suit or not.

After casting his ballot, Lula, 80, warned that the choice was between democracy and “barbarism”.

Bolsonaro, 45, said he wanted to “free the Brazilian people”.

BILINGUAL IMMIGRATION LAWYER
(English & French)
Refugee Claims | Francophone Immigration Support Program | Francophone Minority Communities Student Pilot.
Contact me today!
pouchelonlaw@gmail.com.
416-759-8389
POUCHELON LAW
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION





EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Guyana Development Bank Operationalised

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, October 6 2026

The opening of the Guyana Development Bank is more than the launch of another lending institution. It is a statement of confidence in ordinary Guyanese: the young woman with a catering idea, the farmer ready to expand, the school leaver with a plan for a small repair shop.

For too long, these dreamers have been told, sometimes politely and sometimes not, that their ideas were too small, too risky or too unproven for the formal financial system. This bank says otherwise.

The centerpiece is refreshingly practical: collateral-free and interest-free loans of up to \$3,000,000, with an application process simplified so that paperwork does not become a wall between a good idea and the capital needed to carry it out.

Approved loans go straight into the borrower's bank account, and repayments flow through the banking system. That is a sensible design. It builds habits, creates records and draws more Guyanese into the formal economy, where opportunity compounds.

What deserves the most applause, however, is

the bank's honesty. President Irfaan Ali was plain that this money is offered as loans, not grants.

Some may quietly wish for a handout, but the President's framing is the more respectful one. A grant treats a person as a recipient; a loan treats them as a partner with obligations and capability.

Asking borrowers to work with discipline, manage their finances and take the responsibility seriously is not a burden. It is a form of dignity. It also protects the very institution that others will depend on tomorrow.

Just as important is what surrounds the lending. Mentorship, financial stewardship training, entrepreneur skills development and extension services are not decorative extras.

Every seasoned business owner knows that capital without knowledge is fragile, and that many promising ventures fail not for lack of talent but for lack of guidance on pricing, record keeping or cash flow. By pairing money with mentors and training, the bank is trying to raise the odds of success, and that is exactly what a development bank should do.

The deliberate focus on women, young people, farmers and persons with disabilities also merits praise. These are the groups most likely to be over-

looked by conventional lenders, and often the ones with the most determination to prove doubters wrong.

Reaching them widens the circle of prosperity and strengthens communities from the coast to the hinterland.

There is also a quieter benefit: credit history. As the President noted, a strong repayment record can open further doors. A small loan repaid on time becomes a reputation, and a reputation becomes access to larger opportunities. In that sense, the loan is a starting point, not a ceiling.

Of course, the real test lies ahead. The bank must process applications efficiently, keep its promises on mentorship and support, and remain free of favouritism. Guyanese should expect nothing less, and hold it accountable accordingly. But the foundation is sound.

To those who have been waiting for a chance, the President's message is the right one: prepare your plan, be ready, fill the forms, find a mentor, and make the investment worth it.

The Guyana Development Bank has opened its doors. What happens next depends on the courage and discipline of those who walk through them.

Let us all be profitable

Dear Editor,

As we launch our important Guyana Development Bank, aiming to make every one of us Guyanese, entrepreneurs in spirit in practice, in awareness and in truth.

Our LEAP programme in Linden made some headway in its intended purpose, to convert our fellow citizens in Linden from the old-time company-town mindset to a new entrepreneurial, self-responsible, paying-your-way, profitable mindset.

I wish that we had been more successful, even as I recognise that culture is difficult to change. We are not aware that in the existing culture there are a thousand questions for which we know the answers. In our transition to a new culture, we must believe that we will arrive at new answers that are acceptable and better, to those same thousand questions.

As we set out on this key venture of a national development bank, aware of our history in such ventures, we must avoid thinking of it and approaching it as a government hand-out in another form. It would be good for us to have wide and deep discussions about profits and losses, subsidies and support/investment for the medium to long term, how wealth is created, and so on.

Profitability and profits are essential but our history and religions have disposed most of us to be cautious if not outrightly suspicious of and denouncing profits. But we need perhaps two thirds of all our activities to be highly profitable beyond paying their way, so that there is money to be invested in projects

that will provide an improved setting for continued and greater profits in the medium and long term.

Losses offset by subsidies and support could only be temporary, to get through troughs or to transition out of goods and services that we could no longer offer competitively, or where we could not offer them competitively and profitably, soon.

We rightly honour our Cheddi for being a great fighter for workers and the downtrodden against mighty capitalists. I dare say that he was at the same time a fighter for profitable enterprises that were fair and just, for sustaining the enterprises in which our people worked, and having profits and savings to invest and thus improve productivity and incomes.

To many it might seem that I am rewriting Cheddi, but I point to his characteristic path towards ending a strike: calling for a going to the books, proposing deferral of or reduction of debt repayments and/or less pay to the top (including reduced profit take) so that workers at the bottom could get something that was more just without collapsing the enterprise. Cheddi was aware of and acted out his awareness that a collapsed enterprise would be bad for workers.

Cheddi looked to bringing better rewards for workers in the not-too-distant future by deferring some present consumptions and investing the savings in society wide developments.

Let me admit that as one who was an 18yr old youth at the time, I was attracted to Cheddi's 1962 development budget, regretting the view with which so many of our people were excited to riot, that

Cheddi wanted us to do without, to save and invest in projects which our children and grandchildren should do!

May we have greater success as we launch on this perhaps fourth attempt in my knowledge, to kindle the entrepreneurial spirit in every one of us Guyanese, to profitably provide lawful and morally acceptable goods and services to our fellow Guyanese (and in time to our world) in a form that at the current time they are able and willing to pay for.

Our new Guyana Development Bank is for earnest, serious business, not another vehicle for handouts but a vehicle for many of us to create wealth in our country.

Let all of us be entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial in whatever work we do in ways that earn profits and at the same time make "profits" a good word. Make profits that are fair and just in the prevailing circumstances, so as to enable us to do good things and extend subsidies and support losses in others enduring hard times and times of transition and transformation. Only fair and just profits can do good – losses cannot.

Let all of us be entrepreneurial. Let us all be profitable. Let there be profits all around. Let us make "profits" a good word, for profits are essential. Let us make our new Guyana Development Bank the enabler for many of us.

Yours truly,
Samuel A A Hinds
Former Prime Minister and President.



Publisher: Bhaskar Sharma

Equalitygroup@rogers.com

Editor: Nishad Sharma

Annual subscription: \$104.00 (including postage)

Funded by the Government of Canada

Canada

Equality News is the largest weekly newspaper serving Guyanese and Caribbean readers in Canada.

Contributors: Niraj Sharma, Freddie Kissoon,

Donald Ramotar, Cliff Rajkumar, Dr Kumar Mahabir, Dr Vishnu Bisram

For advertising in Ontario or nationally, call Marie Sharma 416-281-3333 or 647 -216 2359

View Equality News every week online (ads included)

www.equalitynews.ca

Equality News International is published by Equality News Incorporated.

104-1920 Ellesmere Road - MB# 234, Toronto, Ontario M1H 3G1

Tel: 416-281-3333 , Fax: 416-759-5359, Email: EqualityGroup@rogers.com

Federal government moves ahead with Bill C40 to strengthen defence

By Milan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

The federal government is moving forward with legislation that will increase the autonomy of Canada's Defence Investment Agency as part of efforts to accelerate defence procurement and boost the domestic defence industry of the country.

Bill C-40, the Strengthening Canada's Defence Sector Act, was tabled on Oct. 6 and would establish the Defence Investment Agency (DIA) as a Crown corporation. According to the government, the move would streamline administration, allow for greater flexibility during negotiations and guarantee that more defence-related investments benefit the Canadian business sector and workforce.

The DIA was created in October 2025 as a special operating agency under Public Services and Procurement Canada. The newly proposed legislation would convert it into the Canadian Corporation for Defence Investment while retaining the current name for public use.

As a Crown corporation, the new agency would have its own board of directors as well as increased power to negotiate and administer contracts. At the same time, the agency would engage in defence production, procurement and investment activities according to priorities determined by the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces.

According to the government, the aim of this change will be to decrease the handovers between different departments and combine procurement and commercial responsibilities into one organization. The Canadian National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces will define capabilities and operational needs whereas the DIA will provide these.

Moreover, the government plans to appoint an Associate Minister of National Defence for Procurement. This person will be responsible to the Parliament for the DIA in order to increase accountability and bring procurement responsibilities under National Defence Portfolio.

Defense Procurement Secretary Stephen Fuhr believes that the new proposal will allow the DIA to make strategic investments and at the same time promote the Canadian industry and job creation. The government claims that the DIA reforms are con-



Bill C40 will accelerate defence procurement

nected with their Defence Industrial Strategy.

Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy sets out an ambitious goal for the next ten years that the country should increase the amount of defence acquisitions awarded to Canadian companies by 70%. It also envisages an increased defense-related research and development expenditures, Canadian defense exports growth and creation of 125,000 jobs.

It also states that achieving these objectives could result in investments of up to \$180 billion in direct defence procurement, \$290 billion in defence infrastructure investments, and an additional \$125 billion in economic impact by 2035. These numbers represent government estimates, not guaranteed investments.

The government is also stressing its "Build-Partner-Buy" approach. In this model, Canada will seek to build the capability at home whenever possible, partner with its allies where building at home is unfeasible, and buy from other countries when nothing else works. Any buying from outside of Canada, the government insists, will still help Canadian industry and keep strategic capability under Canadian control.

The new legislation does not take the government's supervision away from defence procurement. The future Crown corporation will continue to report to the government through the responsible minister and will be subject to various oversight requirements.

These shifts come at a time when Canada is stepping up its military spending and trying to build more of its own industrial capability. The Canadian government has announced \$81.8 billion in new defence spending and

designated the defence sector as an area of national security as well as economic development. In the current state of affairs, Canada has a defence sector made up of close to 600 companies, according to the Canadian government strategy.

Should Bill C-40 become law, it will be another step forward by the government in its bid to transform the process by which Canada acquires and spends on defence capabilities.



Fresh produce draws shoppers to farmers' market

BOTH shoppers and vendors alike have welcomed the government's newly launched farmers' market in Sophia, citing lower prices, locally produced goods and new opportunities for small businesses to reach a larger customer base.

The weekly market, which began on Wednesday as part of Agriculture Month activities, has attracted shoppers looking for alternatives to the prices offered at regular markets and supermarkets, while vendors say the initiative is giving them an opportunity to showcase their products and build their businesses.

Being hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, the weekly farmers' market at the Sophia Market is part of a wider initiative which will see other monthly farmers' markets held in various regions. Speaking to members of the media on her experience at Wednesday's Farmers' Market, first-time visitor Tanaeisha Allen said she was impressed with what she saw and was already looking forward to returning.

As she shared, "I came today and

I did not know what to expect because this is my first farmers' market, but from what I am seeing, I am really looking forward to being here next week. I have just visited the fish booth and the prices was [sic] good and I can compare with the prices that I pay, you know, on a regular basis."

Another shopper, Olivia Ward, said the market was timely amid the current cost of food and welcomed the range of products available.

"The prices in the market are very hot right now, so it is good that you are getting it at a lesser price. That is why I saw it on Facebook and I decided to come and see what it is like."

Ward also cited the range of local products available at the market, adding, "This is my first time at something like this and it is pretty nice. It is good to see that you have a lot of local stuff, not only vegetables but a lot of other teas and drinks."

For vendors, the market is also being viewed as more than a place to sell products, with some seeing it as an opportunity to introduce their busi-



Vendors showcase their goods at the Farmers' Market in Sophia

nesses to a wider group of consumers.

Karen Nelson said the initiative gives businesses an avenue to showcase what they offer, while creating an opportunity for persons to shop at lower prices. "I would say it is very important. You get to showcase my business and then what you find with this market here too, that a lot of things normally

sell cheap [sic], so a lot of persons would get an opportunity[sic] to come out and shop, and I find that it is a very good initiative as well."

The initiative is also a step amid broader efforts to strengthen agriculture, expand market opportunities for producers and improve access to locally produced food.

NEXT ROOFING AND HOME SOLUTION

1000 Purpledusk Trail, Scarborough, ON M1E 4C8

Next Roofing Solution Services:

- Shingles
- Flat Roof
- Metal Roof
- Window Frame
- Gutter Cleaning
- Leaf Screen
- Shelter
- Aluminium
- Eavestrough
- Soffit
- Fascia
- Siding
- Vinyl Siding
- Skylight

FREE
ESTIMATES



Jemal Said, Owner

647-676-6699

onextroofingsolution@gmail.com

www.nrsroofing.com

License & Trader Contractor. Specializes in roofing and siding. All outside homes & WSIB & Insurance



Brian Tiwarie, OMC, AA - CEO



GROUP OF COMPANIES
Put Guyana First

1 & 2 MUDLOT WATER STREET, KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA. TEL: 592- 226-5513-4 | 226-5314-5 |

226-4113 FAX: 592- 226-5517 | 223-7421

UMAMI’s first commercial shipment of agri products to Qatar sets sail

IN a proud milestone for Guyanese manufacturing and agro-processing, UMAMI Incorporated’s first container shipment to LuLu Hypermarket in Qatar has officially sailed from Guyana, coinciding with the commencement of Agriculture Month 2026.

According to a press release, the shipment follows UMAMI’s official market launch in Doha in September and marks the transition from introduction to sustained commercial trade.

More significantly, it represents a Guyanese brand, manufactured in Guyana by Guyanese workers, carrying the country’s name and productive capability into an important international market.

For UMAMI, the shipment reflects a broader national opportunity: to transform Guyana’s agricultural resources into higher-value manufactured products, build internationally recognised brands and create new markets for Guyanese enterprise.

President Irfaan Ali, in welcoming the development, noted that this ship-



President Ali shares the celebration of their first shipment with UMAMI’s officials

ment is significant because it represents the conversion of opportunity into trade.

He said: “We have worked deliberately to build the bridges between Guyana, Qatar and the wider Gulf re-

gion; the task before our private sector now is to increase the traffic across those bridges. UMAMI’s first commercial shipment demonstrates what is possible when Guyanese manufacturers invest in

quality, standards, capacity and ambition, and when strong international partners such as LuLu provide a platform for our products to reach new consumers.

“Every container that leaves our shores carrying value-added products strengthens Brand Guyana, creates opportunities for our farmers and workers, and advances our country’s transition from a producer of primary commodities to a competitive manufacturing and export economy.”

UMAMI expressed its sincere appreciation to LuLu Group for the confidence it has placed in a Guyanese manufacturer and for providing the company with a platform to reach consumers in Qatar.

The company views the relationship as the beginning of a long-term partnership and believes the opportunity demonstrates what can be achieved when international retailers, government, diplomacy and private enterprise work together to create new markets.

Dr Mohamed Althaf, Global Director of the LuLu Group, said: “It is an honour for LuLu Group to partner with UMAMI and support the introduction of this pioneering product from Guyana to the Qatar market. We are truly impressed by the world-class quality of UMAMI’s products and the dedication behind the brand. This first commercial shipment represents more than a trade milestone; it reflects the growing opportunities for collaboration between Guyana and the Gulf region.

“We are proud to provide a platform for outstanding products such as UMAMI to reach consumers in Qatar, and we look forward to building a strong and enduring partnership that supports the continued growth of Guyanese exports.”



GUYANA SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

AVAILABLE FOR SALE

QUALITY PRODUCTS YOU CAN TRUST.

- ✓ FRESH FROM OUR FARMS
- ✓ RAISED WITH CARE
- ✓ MADE WITH STANDARDS
- ✓ GOOD FOR YOU
- ✓ GOOD FOR GUYANA



GSA Foods

FRESH VEGETABLES

- ✓ Bora
- ✓ Ochro
- ✓ Cucumber
- ✓ Tomato
- ✓ Papaya
- ✓ Wiri Wiri Pepper



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

- ✓ Fresh Cow's Milk
- ✓ Fresh Eggs
- ✓ Chicken
- ✓ Pork



GSA PROCESSED PRODUCTS

- ✓ Health Mix
- ✓ Breadfruit Flour
- ✓ Banana Flour
- ✓ Smarty Baby Porridge Mix
- ✓ Green Seasoning
- ✓ Preserved Carambola



-  **GROWN WITH CARE ON OUR FARMS**
-  **RAISED WITH PRIDE FOR QUALITY**
-  **PROCESSED WITH STANDARDS YOU CAN TRUST**
-  **SUPPORT GSA SUPPORT OUR FUTURE**

 **Mon Repos, Agriculture Road, ECD**  **220 - 2297**



Flashback: Former People's National Congress Reform (PNCR) leader and Opposition Leader Robert Herman Orlando Corbin and Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, who was Guyana's President at the time (

Tributes pour in for former PNCR leader, Opposition Leader, Robert Corbin

TRIBUTES are pouring in for former People's National Congress Reform (PNCR) leader and Opposition Leader Robert Herman Orlando Corbin, following news of his death on Sunday, October 4.

President, Dr Irfaan Ali, Vice-president Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall were among those who expressed condolences to Corbin's family, friends and political colleagues.

Corbin, who was 78, was a long-standing member of parliament who served as a minister of government and deputy prime minister before becoming leader of the PNCR and leader of the opposition.

President Ali acknowledged Corbin's significant place in Guyana's public life, extending condolences to his family and loved ones, as well as the leadership, membership and supporters of the PNCR in Guyana and the diaspora.

"May his family, colleagues and supporters find strength and comfort in the memories of his life and service, and may his soul rest in eternal peace," President Ali wrote.

Dr Jagdeo also reflected on Corbin's lengthy political career and his contributions to the PNCR and to national life. He noted that despite their political differences, the two maintained a cordial and respectful relationship and engaged on matters of national importance during Jagdeo's presidency.

"Mr Corbin devoted much of his life to public service and to the PNCR. He served Guyana in Parliament for many years, held ministerial office, served as deputy prime minister and later as leader of the opposition. He also pursued a career in law," the vice president said adding:

"During my presidency, on numerous occasions, Mr Corbin and I engaged on matters of national importance. Though we represented opposing political parties, our relationship was cordial and respectful. Even through difficult and turbulent periods in our country's life, we maintained the ability to speak with one another, a respect that continued beyond our time in office."

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, described Corbin as one of the longest-serving members of the National Assembly and

recalled his reputation as an able parliamentarian who commanded the attention of both sides of the House.

Corbin also pursued a career in law, becoming an attorney-at-law while remaining active in politics.

Nandlall noted that his daughter, Justice Fidela Corbin, studied law alongside him for several years, while Corbin himself entered the Hugh Wooding Law School during the period Nandlall was completing his final year.

The attorney general extended condolences to Corbin's wife, Carol, his daughter Justice Fidela Corbin, her siblings, relatives, friends and supporters.

The PNCR and A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) are also mourning Corbin, describing his death as an irreplaceable loss to the party.

"Although we were from opposing political sides, we shared a healthy and respectful relationship and had many common friends and clients. He was a most able speaker in the National Assembly who commanded the attention of both sides of the House whenever he took the floor. Many years of his life were dedicated to serving the people of Guyana, his party and its supporters,"

the attorney general said.

Corbin served the PNCR in several senior positions, including National Chairman of the Young Socialist Movement, general secretary and leader. He was also credited by the party with promoting coalition politics, which eventually contributed to the formation of the APNU+AFC coalition and its victory at the 2015 General and Regional Elections. He remained involved with the party even during his illness and continued to provide advice to its leadership.

Corbin's political career spanned several decades and included service as parliamentary secretary, minister and deputy prime minister, as well as leader of the opposition. His death has prompted tributes from across the political divide, with his contemporaries highlighting his contributions to public service and Guyana's political life.

**ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE**

Guyana Development Bank comes into operation as of October 5

THE Government of Guyana has announced the launch of the Guyana Development Bank (GDB) today, October 5, 2026, in keeping with earlier announcements made by President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Dr Irfaan Ali.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Finance, “the coming into operation of the GDB represents the delivery of a major commitment made by the PPP/C Government in our Manifesto 2025, and will see the provision of loans of up to \$3 million to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in all ten Regions of Guyana, with no requirement for collateral and no interest to be charged.”

This, the ministry said, will dramatically improve the access to, and affordability of, financing for SMEs, and will unlock boundless possibilities for businesses with credible and viable plans to be established and/or expand with the support of the financing provided through the GDB.

It is anticipated that the GDB will therefore facilitate significant opportunities for growth and expansion in the SME sector across the entire productive spectrum.

“In keeping with our government’s emphasis on digitisation, the GDB may be accessed through an on-line digital platform established at <https://gdb.gov.gy/> which provides a simple process to apply for loans and submit relevant supportive information.

“The same platform will be used by borrowers to manage their loans through its entire lifecycle including during the repayment period,” the Min-

An Official Website Of The Government Of The Co-Operative Republic Of Guyana

finance.gov.gy - Ministry Of Finance



[Loans](#) [How It Works](#) [About The Bank](#) [FAQs](#)

[Sign Up](#) [Apply](#)

Now Accepting Applications, With Zero-Interest Financing Up To G\$3,000,000. [Apply Online](#)

Let Us Help You To Grow Your Business



The Guyana Development Bank Gives Small And Medium Businesses The Capital To Start Up, Sustain, Scale And Grow, With Zero-Interest Loans Up To G\$3,000,000.

[Apply Now](#) [Schedule An Appointment](#)

How Much Does Your Business Need?

ESTIMATE

G\$250,000

G\$50,000G\$300,000G\$5,000,000

Repay Over

6 Mo

12 Mo

18 Mo

24 Mo

An advertisement for the new Guyana Development Bank

istry of Finance said.

The platform provides for two types of loans – quick loans which are loans below \$300,000 for which a simplified process and reduced documentation are required; relative to SME loans which are between \$300,000 and \$3 million and for which slightly more documentation would be needed, but ensuring that the system remains simple and easy to use.

Once approved, the loan is disbursed directly into the borrower’s bank account, and repayment is also done through the banking and financial system.

Alternatively, the platform also provides for an option to request an appointment to meet an officer of the bank for face-to face assistance, thereby ensuring that the GDB remains accessible to all.

“By these means, the GDB is expected to promote not only greater access to financing for SMEs but also financial inclusion and financial literacy, as well as digital inclusion and digital literacy, all of which are important objectives that the government is pursuing for the people of Guyana,” the Ministry of Finance said.

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

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

Key priorities of the WGC include:

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

World Guyanese Congress
5200 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2N 5P6

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

If you have any questions feel free to get in touch:
Email: mail@wgc-org.com
Telephone: [1-800-317-0804](tel:1-800-317-0804)

Housing Ministry advances recreational facilities in housing schemes nationwide

THE Ministry of Housing is advancing the development of recreational facilities in housing schemes across the country as part of its broader effort to create wholesome and sustainable communities.

Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, provided an update on the initiative on Friday, October 2, during a visit to the recreational facility under development at Le Reconnaissance on the East Coast of Demerara.

The community, where 175 low-income houses are currently under construction, is among several housing developments benefitting from investments aimed at providing residents with safe and accessible spaces for recreation, exercise and family activities.

Minister Croal disclosed that the Le Reconnaissance facility is one of 12 recreational grounds currently being developed in Region Four and among 27 being advanced across several regions.

He noted that the Government’s housing programme extends beyond the allocation of house lots and construction of homes, with increased attention being



Minister of Housing, Collin Croal and team during a visit to the recreational facility at Le Reconnaissance

placed on improving the overall quality of life within communities.

“We are enhancing the communities in which persons live. Recreational facilities provide an avenue for persons to exercise and a space for families to bring their children for leisure,” Minister Croal said.

At Le Reconnaissance, the first phase of works includes construction of the perimeter fence, concrete drainage around the ground and land levelling. The second phase will see further enhancement of the facility, including the construction of a walkway for exercise and the installation of recreational amenities, including slides for children.

Minister Croal said similar investments are being undertaken in other

communities where the Ministry has ongoing housing programmes.

The recreational facility programme complements wider Government efforts, including initiatives being undertaken through the Ministries of Local Government and Regional Development and Public Works, to improve community infrastructure and create safer, more functional spaces for residents.

The Ministry of Housing remains committed to ensuring that the expansion of the national housing programme is accompanied by the infrastructure and amenities necessary to foster vibrant, family-friendly communities.

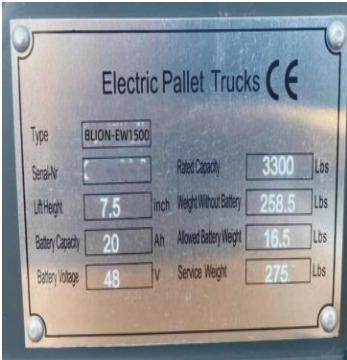


EMAIL: SERVICES@TRADELOGIX.CA
PHONE: 416-938-8779



www.tradelogix.ca

MODEL# BLION-EW1500



Electric Pallet Trucks	
Type	BLION-EW1500
Serial No.	
Rated Capacity	3300 Lbs
Lift Height	7.5 inch
Weight Without Battery	258.5 Lbs
Battery Capacity	20 Ah
Allowed Battery Weight	16.5 Lbs
Battery Voltage	48 V
Service Weight	275 Lbs



Charging Time
3HR



Working Time
6HR



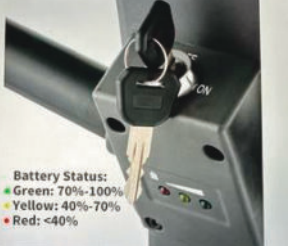
Work Shift
24HR



48V/6A
[Charger]



48V/20AH
[Battery]



Battery Status:
Green: 70%-100%
Yellow: 40%-70%
Red: <40%

• 24 Hours without break just need one extra battery.



Multi-function Control Handle



Less Wiring, Easy Service



Plug-in Battery Design



ADVERTISE WITH US

Gas Energy Chamber backs Development Bank for local suppliers

FOR entrepreneurs who have long viewed access to capital as one of the biggest barriers to turning a viable idea into a sustainable business, the launch of the Guyana Development Bank marks the opening of a new financing avenue, according to the Guyana Oil and Gas Energy Chamber (GOGEC).

In a statement issued on Monday, when the bank officially began operations, GOGEC welcomed the initiative and said the institution could help remove the longstanding financial barriers facing local entrepreneurs, particularly youth, women, and emerging enterprises.

Praising the development, the chamber said the bank's initial US\$100 million capitalisation represents a significant development in Guyana's financial landscape and commended President Dr Irfaan Ali and the Government for establishing what it described as an inclusive mechanism for expanding access to financing.

The Guyana Development Bank is intended to provide eligible small and medium-sized enterprises with loans of up to G\$3 million without collateral and interest, while also providing business development support. The bank is being positioned as more than a source of financing, with technical assistance, mentorship, financial literacy, and business planning forming part of its support structure.

GOGEC said this combination of financing and business support could be particularly important for companies seeking to establish themselves in Guyana's expanding energy economy. "As Guyana's energy sector continues its rapid expansion, meeting stringent local content targets requires robust capitalisation and capacity-building," the chamber said, adding, "The Guyana Development Bank serves as a powerful catalyst for GOGEC members; particularly emerging subcontractors, fabrication shops, logistics providers, and professional service suppliers."

The bank's launch follows months of preparation after Government announced the initiative in the 2026 National Budget, with US\$100 million earmarked as its initial capital injection. The Development Bank Bill was passed by the National Assembly in July and President Ali subsequently assented to the Guyana Development Bank Act 2026. The bank's creation has seen considerable interest and strong support among entrepreneurs and members of

Guyana's business community, with many citing how a lack of access of collateral and the cost of commercial borrowing has traditionally made it difficult to start or expand businesses.

Government has also emphasised that the institution is intended to provide support beyond the initial loan. The bank is expected to use regional credit officers, facilitators and mentors to work directly with applicants, help develop business plans, provide financial literacy, and monitor projects. As enterprises grow, sector specialists and technical officers are expected to assist with expansion and help businesses

eventually transition into the commercial banking system. That field-driven approach is also intended to extend access beyond Georgetown and the traditional banking centres. Government has been developing a mobile application to allow entrepreneurs in hinterland and riverain communities to access the bank's services, while regional officers and facilitators are expected to provide on-the-ground assistance.

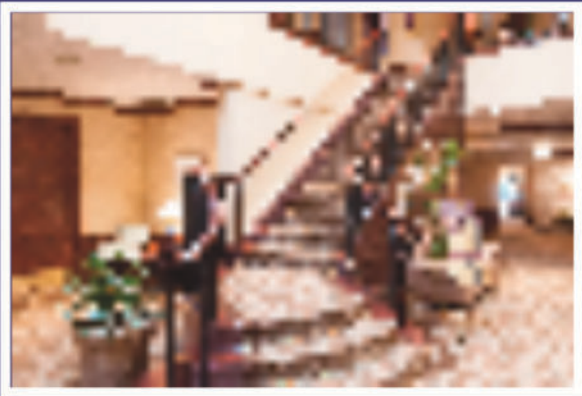
For GOGEC, the bank's opening marks a historic step in strengthening the participation of Guyanese-owned businesses in the energy sector. The chamber said it stands ready to work

with the Government and the bank to ensure local energy companies and small suppliers can make use of the new financial tools.

"This will foster shared prosperity and drive sustainable Guyanese participation in the national transformation," GOGEC said. The bank began operations on Monday with a seven-member board headed by Chairman Abu Zaman and Deputy Chairperson Kathy Smith. The board brings experience in areas including retail and SME banking, private-sector advocacy, financial regulation, legal affairs, and institutional governance.

Our Family Caring for Yours

From the flowers on the front lawn to the paintings on the walls, we at Ogden's always consider the comfort and needs of the families that we serve first. We offer services and products that are meaningful and fit comfortably within your budget. Just some of the ways that we as a family care for yours.
Family owned and operated since 1948.



416-293-5211

4164 Sheppard Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T3

www.ogdenfuneralhome.com

Digital platform makes development bank easy to access and use

ENTREPRENEURS will be able to apply for finance, track their applications and manage their loans online through Guyana Development Bank's digital platform, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh has said.

During an interview, Dr. Singh said applicants would be able to submit details of their business ideas, and, depending on the size of the loan sought, upload basic supporting information.

"We deployed the national cash grant initiative, using a digital solution, and implemented it and executed it with remarkable success.

"Hundreds-of-thousands of persons signed up online without leaving their home, put in their bank account information, and got their cash grants straight into their bank account, which, in some sense, demonstrated that this is very eminently doable. And so, the Guyana Development Bank uses the same digital technology; easy to access, easy to use," he said.

The online service is intended to guide customers through the loan process, and let them monitor their ap-

plications and repayment obligations.

Applicants who prefer to speak to staff in person will also be able to request appointments at offices planned across all 10 administrative regions, although Dr. Singh said the government's preference was for people to apply online.

The bank's purpose is to help small businesses that have struggled to obtain finance through traditional lenders, including entrepreneurs without collateral or a banking track record. Dr. Singh said the loans would carry no interest and require no collateral.

More than G\$20 billion has been budgeted for disbursement to small businesses in 2026.

The bank plans to offer support beyond lending, including mentorship, training, coaching, and capacity-building for its clients. Dr. Singh said its goal was to help entrepreneurs develop sustainable businesses, while emphasising that success would also depend on owners managing their businesses responsibly.

Offering some advice, the finance minister said: "Come up with an interesting idea that you know you're good



Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh

at; that you know you're going to be able to convert into a commercially viable enterprise. Put up a good proposal, access your financing, and then manage your business well. Manage your business well. There's no shortcut to success."

He stressed: "No matter what the

government does, no matter whether we provide financing, no matter what, no matter whether we provide coaching and mentorship. There's no shortcut to success if the business owner and the entrepreneur themselves, if they are not committed to managing their business well."

Guyana highlights push for greater women's empowerment

GUYANA'S progress on gender equality must continue to translate into practical opportunities for women in their everyday lives, Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, told women parliamentarians from around the world on Monday.

She used the opportunity to highlight measures being advanced in Guyana to strengthen women's economic security, safety, and participation in decision-making.

She was at the time representing Guyana at the 56th Session of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, held during the 153rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Arusha, Tanzania, on Monday, where she shared the country's experience and the work being undertaken towards gender equality. Thanking the Government and people of Tanzania for their hospitality and highlighting the significance of the platform, Minister Persaud said gender equality must extend beyond formal discussions and be reflected in the everyday experiences of women.

"I feel that gender equality must be

felt in a woman's everyday life, her safety at work, her ability to earn, ownership of homes and her freedom to pursue opportunity," she said.

Minister Persaud said Guyana's progress has been supported by political will and committed leadership, which she said have allowed the country to advance both practical and systemic measures aimed at expanding equality for women.

"In Guyana, there is political will. The strides have been made because there is that political will and there is leadership from His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and all of us who sit in cabinet. And this leads to us advancing practical and systemic measures so that we have these freedoms," she said.

Among the initiatives highlighted was the National Equality and Empowerment Gender Seal, which the minister said she launched in 2025 as a transformative initiative for both the private and public sectors. According to Minister Persaud, 20 private-sector companies have embraced the seal, while the initiative has recently been extended to the

public sector. She said the programme incorporates equal opportunity, the prevention of sexual exploitation and harassment, and the advancement of equality in workplaces. "It is a very big step for us. And it is really putting what we need to happen in the workplaces on the front burner," Persaud said.

She also pointed to gender-responsive financing as an important aspect of the country's equality efforts, particularly in addressing gender-based violence and supporting survivors. Minister Persaud said Government has established one-stop-shop hubs offering shelter, counselling, medical and legal support free of charge, alongside a round-the-clock toll-free hotline for reporting and a free application designed to assist women affected by gender-based violence.

"Survivors of gender-based violence benefit throughout all our programmes," she said, adding that the Government is also working to provide survivors with free technical and vocational training and financing for start-ups to support entrepreneurship.

Moreover, women's economic empowerment, Minister Persaud said, remains a major focus of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, with at least 30,000 women trained in various technical and vocational skills leading towards entrepreneurship and employment. She also highlighted 'We Lift,' Guyana's women-owned business expo, which she described as the country's and one of the Caribbean's largest expos of its kind, involving at least 350 women-owned businesses. She said the initiative has helped connect women with national and local markets, as well as export opportunities.

Another area the minister highlighted was the National Co-Invest Care Economy Initiative, which sees Government financing and supporting women in communities to establish care centres for community-based child and elder care. Minister Persaud described the initiative as "very, very transformational," saying it provides safe spaces for children and elderly persons while also creating opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment.

UN must deliver ‘peace outcomes’ amid highest conflicts since WWII—UN Envoy

GUYANA’S candidate for United Nations Secretary-General, Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, has warned that the world is experiencing its highest number of conflicts since World War II, arguing that the organisation must become more effective in delivering tangible peace outcomes.

Rodrigues-Birkett made the observation during an interview with The Exchange as she outlined her vision for the United Nations and her candidacy to become the organisation’s next Secretary-General.

Her comments come against the backdrop of growing criticism of the UN over its inability to prevent or end several major conflicts, with the organisation celebrating its 80th anniversary.

“I would start by saying that we need a UN that learns from the past, that is fit for today, and that is ready for the future,” Rodrigues-Birkett said.

She acknowledged that the UN has faced significant criticism in recent years, particularly over its performance in addressing armed conflicts.

She said, “What I’ve seen during these last years is lots of criticism being directed to the UN, particularly because we have not been able to end and prevent conflicts.”

Rodrigues-Birkett pointed to the number of conflicts currently taking place globally, noting that the situation has reached levels not seen since the Second World War.

She argued that the UN’s founding mandate makes peace and security a critical measure of its effectiveness.

Given that the organisation’s Charter begins with a commitment “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,” Rodrigues-Birkett said it was understandable that the public would judge the UN largely by its ability to promote peace.

“So, to be effective, we have to work to have peace outcomes,” she said.

While acknowledging the difficult geopolitical environment in which the UN currently operates, Rodrigues-Birkett said she believes progress remains possible even during periods of intense international tension.

She added, “I am well aware of the geopolitical times in which we live, but I believe that even in great distress geopolitically, we can make movements.”

The ambassador pointed to the UN’s survival through the Cold War and other periods of international tension as evidence that the organisation can still achieve meaningful results despite divisions among major powers.

“This organisation has gone through the Cold War. It has gone through very difficult times, and even then, you had successes,” she said.



Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett

If appointed Secretary-General, Rodrigues-Birkett said she would approach the position with a clear focus on finding opportunities for peace.

“And as Secretary-General, should I be appointed, I would use all the tools at my disposal.”

She said her approach would involve working through different mechanisms available to the UN, including close engagement with the Security Council.

“I would wake up every day looking to how we could find peace outcomes through different means, using the tools, but also the Security Council, working very closely with the Security Council,” she said.

Rodrigues-Birkett also argued that failures should not necessarily mean abandoning the organisation’s mechanisms.

For Rodrigues-Birkett, reforming and strengthening the UN is not simply about preserving an international institution but also ensuring that it remains capable of delivering for countries and people on the ground.

She said her own experience working with the UN had allowed her to see both the organisation’s limitations and the commitment of its personnel, including staff who put themselves at risk while providing assistance in difficult environments.

The ambassador said, “I’ve seen people working on the ground, UN staff, committed people, putting themselves at risk to bring help to people.”

Rodrigues-Birkett said this experience has reinforced her belief that there are compelling reasons to seek the position despite the challenges associated with it.

She described the Secretary-General’s position as possibly “the most thankless job in the world” but said she has never approached public service expecting thanks.

“I’ve never approached service from a position of thanks, always from service,” she said.

She also described Guyana’s candidacy as significant for the Caribbean, stating the region’s opportunity to produce a UN Secretary-General is rare.

According to Rodrigues-Birkett, the Caribbean has never held the position and may not have another opportunity for decades.

She said this makes the current contest a significant opportunity not only for Guyana but for the wider Caribbean, while maintaining that her broader objective is to help make the UN more effective for countries around the world.

Her résumé includes service as

Guyana’s Minister of Amerindian Affairs; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Co-operation; Director of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Liaison Office in Geneva; and Permanent Representative to the United Nations since 2020.

Academically, she holds a Master’s degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy with distinction from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya and a degree in Social Work, also with distinction, from the University of Guyana.

If successful, Rodrigues-Birkett would make history as the first woman and the first Guyanese national to lead the United Nations.

The Government of Guyana has been actively engaging member states across the world in support of her candidacy as the campaign for the UN’s top post gathers momentum.





Susan Rodrigues, Minister of Tourism and Kamrul Baksh, Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority

Guyana hosts State of Tourism Conference

State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIC) 2026, is being hosted in Guyana from October 5-9, 2026.

This marks the first time that Guyana will host SOTIC, which will be held under the theme “Tourism Futures: Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive.”

The conference will bring together tourism officials, industry leaders, private-sector representatives, investors, researchers, media and other stakeholders from across the Caribbean and international markets to examine key developments, challenges and opportunities shaping the future of tourism.

The programme will explore tourism intelligence and data, technology and

innovation, sustainable and regenerative tourism, destination competitiveness, Indigenous tourism, the creative economy and cruise tourism. It will also feature an Investing in Guyana Luncheon, Cruise Master Class, B2B engagement and networking opportunities, and the Caribbean Tourism Research Forum.

For Guyana’s business community, the conference provides a platform to engage with regional and international industry representatives, explore potential business and investment opportunities, and gain insight into developments influencing the tourism sector.



Photos show some of the participants at SOTIC with the Tourism Minister and the head of the GTA





The Guyana Development Bank is now open for business

Strong fiscal management, economic discipline restored confidence in Guyana

REFLECTING on Guyana’s journey from severe debt distress to a stronger economic position, President Dr. Irfaan Ali, on Monday, credited successive People’s Progressive Party/Civic’s (PPP/C) governments in building reforms, debt relief and enhancing economic growth.

He stressed that fiscal management and economic discipline helped the country rebuild its international creditworthiness.

President Ali traced the country’s challenges to the decades after independence. Guyana, he said, did not enter independence in 1966 with the extreme debt burden it faced later.

He pointed instead to the economic policies adopted in the 1970s, when nationalisation and the expansion of state-owned enterprises significantly increased the public sector’s role in the economy.

“Guyana’s development was tiny because of this excessive debt burden, weak institutional framework, and productivity deficit that allowed our debt to balloon in all of these categories, and our that led to our inability to invest in education, health, housing, social services, pensioners, community infrastructure, water, and that led to more or less the decay of our society,” he said.

This, he noted, led to mass migration, destruction of the social fabric within societies and extreme vulnerabilities, including massive squatting.

Dr Ali said weak productivity, loss-making public enterprises, persistent

government and external deficits, and reliance on a narrow range of commodity exports contributed to falling production and a foreign-exchange crisis.

Between 1976 and 1988, real GDP per person fell by a cumulative 31 per cent, while international reserves declined to less than a week’s worth of imports. By 1989, he said, external debt was approximately 276 per cent of GDP, and Guyana had defaulted on its obligations.

“Over the years, from 1992 to now, the People’s Progressive Party Civic Government made enormous strides towards reducing our debt and putting us in the strong position we are in today,” he added.

President Ali described the resulting crisis as more than a problem of accumulated loans: the country lacked the revenue, export earnings and foreign currency needed to service its debt and finance essential imports. Guyana’s creditworthiness was severely weakened, making new commercial borrowing difficult.

HOYTE ADMINISTRATION

The Hoyte administration launched an Economic Recovery Programme in 1989, involving currency devaluation, tighter fiscal and monetary policies, trade liberalisation, privatisation and public-enterprise reform.

Guyana also renewed relations with the IMF, the World Bank and bilateral creditors. When the PPP/C took office in 1992, President Ali said debt levels remained exceptionally high.

He cited an IMF historical series that placed total public debt at 623 per cent of GDP in 1992, while noting that this measure covered a different period and definition from the 1989 external-debt figure. A major part of the recovery, he said, came through debt rescheduling and international relief.

In 1999, it reached the original HIPC completion point, qualifying for debt-service relief. President Ali said the resources freed up helped create fiscal space for poverty-reduction programmes and investment in health and education.

Guyana completed the enhanced HIPC process in 2003, receiving further relief. In 2006 and 2007, the IMF, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank cancelled a further US\$611 million under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, according to the figures cited

in the address.

President Ali described the period from 1999 to 2011 as particularly important for stabilisation, debt management and public investment.

He pointed to stronger relationships with international financial institutions and bilateral creditors, and to investment in housing, roads, schools, health facilities, water services and telecommunications.

He also cited expansion in traditional sectors including gold and rice as well as construction, services and remittances.

“Political stability weighed heavily on economic development, and we saw how political stability inspired confidence also in the economy during the period cumulative real expansion over the period 1999 to 2011,” President Ali said

**ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE**





LOTUS

Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc.

121 City View Drive
North of Belfield Road, East side of Highway 27
647-547-8188 www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com



Seating for more than 500+ guests!

Crematorium inside our building!



CHARLIE'S CATERING SERVICE

Brought to you by Charlie's Caribbean Cuisine

the finest taste of the Caribbean
Dine in or Take out & Catering

For CATERING Inquiries, call:
 905-949-0663

Have a
Wedding
or
Event planned
By
Charlie's



WE CATER FOR ALL OCCASIONS
INCLUDING:

- Corporate Events • Weddings
and other Social Events

Not sure how much food you'll need?
WE CAN HELP YOU!

We will suggest the right amount of food to maximize
the value of your dollar

So you'll have enough food and pay less and have less waste

Full Catering for Hindu religious
ceremonies including 7 curry
(Cooked with separate cookware and utensils)

We Guarantee
you'll love our food, that's why we are
willing to give a free taste test to prove
that our food is great.

WE CATER TO ALL YOUR
CARIBBEAN NEEDS.

All meats halal,
pork free environment

Delivery
to the
GTA
available

3055 Hurontario St. Mississauga, L5A 2G9
www.charliescaribbeancuisine.com

Serving the community for over 30 years you can rest assure that your
order will made fresh and with the highest quality ingredients possible.

For all your catering
needs please call
905-949-0663 or
email us at
charliescaribbeancuisine@hotmail.com

શિવ સેવા સંગઠન મંદિર & Cultural Center
Presents
SANGEET *Ki* KAHANI 4
In Collab with Sangeet Vidyalaya | Akashvani Rhythms | Amargeet Music

Mandir: 416 261 0281
Pt. Dave Ramoutar: 416 918 4038
Pt. Heeralall Sharma: 647 505 7192
Bhai Raymond: 416 659 8967
Bahen Nadira: 416 873 4486

CONTACT FOR INFO

MANDIR - 416.261.0281
PT. DAVE - 416.918.4038
BAHEN NADIRA - 416.873.4486
BHAIRAYMOND - 416.659.8967

DONATION INFO:
Etransfer (Canada) - donate.ssm@gmail.com
PayPal (Canada & USA) - donate.ssm@gmail.com
Cheque Payable to Shiv Sewa Sangh Mandir

ADULT: \$20
CHILD (6-12 YRS): \$10
CHILD (5 YRS & UNDER): FREE
SNACKS WILL BE ON SALE

AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE

The Caribbean Children Foundation Inc. (TCCF)
Even angels need guardians

26th ANNIVERSARY
Angel Gala

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF IMPACT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2026

COCKTAILS 6:00 PM

WOODBINE BANQUET HALL
30 VICE REGENT BLVD
ETOBICOKE (HWY27, SOUTH OF REXDALE BLVD)

TICKETS: \$65.00

GRAND BUFFET DINNER

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

RAFFLE PRIZES

CASH BAR

FORMAL ATTIRE

BUY TICKETS HERE

Scan the QR code to purchase or visit the website
<https://tccfangels.com/upcoming-events/>



Featuring a \$25,000 cheque presentation to The Hospital for Sick Children 

MUSIC BY


CHANGING LIVES. GIVING HOPE. | #TCCFangels | TCCFANGELS.COM

LAW OFFICE

CHET SHARMA
B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B.
Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public
GENERAL PRACTICE
Immigration Law
Criminal Law
Divorce & Family Law
Office: 416-285-1550
Res: 416-284-9191
150 Lawson Road, Toronto
ON M1C 2J4



POINTMENT ONLY
Chet Sharma
B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B.

Global Freight & Logistics Solutions



Weekly Ocean & Air Freight Services

Antigua • Barbados • Guyana • Dominica • Grenada • Jamaica • St. Lucia • St. Vincent • Suriname • Trinidad

Door to Door Service • Returning Residents • Boxes & Crates • Complete Packing & Crating Services • Money Transfer • Courier Service • Empty Barrels (food grade plastic, cardboard & steel)

WE PICK UP IN MONTREAL & OTTAWA!

NEW EMPTY BARRELS FOR SALE AT OUR CANADA OFFICE! \$75cdn

\$65cdn



MONEY TRANSFER AVAILABLE

Money Transfer

SCAN ME

5250 Finch Ave E, Units 13 & 14, Scarborough, ON M1S 5A5
Tel: (416)292-4370 www.laparkan.com

ADS IN EQUALITY WORK!

SG AUTO WORK
Stanley G. (Owner/Technician)
416-285-5875
sgautowork@hotmail.com
1940 Ellesmere Rd, Unit 14
Scarborough, ON. M1H2V7

AC Services
Brakes
Electrical Systems
Engine Repair
New & Used Tires
Steering
Suspension
Transmission Repair



King Charles, Queen Camilla to visit Guyana ahead of CHOGM

King Charles III and Queen Camilla will meet with Guyanese President Irfaan Ali, Indigenous leaders, British businesses and young scientists and environmentalists during a two-day visit to Guyana later this month ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda.

The royal couple will visit Guyana from Oct. 29 to 30 as part of the king's Autumn Tour, which runs from Oct. 27 to Nov. 4 and also includes stops in The Bahamas and Antigua and Barbuda.

The visit will coincide with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Guyana.

King Charles, who is head of the Commonwealth, will begin the visit with a meeting with Ali at State House. The two will then attend a state reception in the gardens of State House with representatives from communities across Guyana to mark the anniversary of the bilateral relationship.

On the second day, the king will attend a reception with British businesses operating in Guyana and other local stakeholders. The event will highlight economic ties between the two countries, including British partnerships and investment in Guyana, which is among the world's fastest-growing economies.

The king will also join members of the Guyanese community, including veterans, at the Georgetown (Rabbit Walk) Memorial. As patron of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, he will lay wreaths commemorating the sacrifices of British, Guyanese and other Commonwealth forces.

Indigenous issues and environmen-



King Charles and Queen Camilla

tal conservation will also feature prominently during the visit.

King Charles is scheduled to meet elected leaders of the National Toshias Council and visit a garden in Georgetown, where he will learn about its botanical features and conservation efforts.

He will also meet young Guyanese involved in environmental clubs and sustainability initiatives. The visit coincides with the Global Biodiversity Alliance Conference, providing an opportunity for the king to meet scientists, Indigenous community members

and innovators working in biodiversity, conservation and restoration.

The king will also hear about the work of the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development, which manages about 371,000 hectares of tropical forest in Guyana. Charles has served as the organisation's patron since 2000, following his visit to the Iwokrama forest when he was the Prince of Wales.

His final engagement in Guyana will take place along the Georgetown seawall, where he will meet participants in the Wilton Park Commonwealth Sus-

tainable Cities Initiative Dialogue.

The visit will highlight efforts to promote sustainable urban development, including renewed work to restore mangroves along Georgetown's coastline to protect against coastal impacts and support wildlife.

King Charles last visited Guyana in February 2000, when he was Prince of Wales.

The royal visit comes just days before CHOGM 2026, which will be held in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from Nov. 1 to 4.

Guyanese can now enter Saudi Arabia with visa

Guyanese passport holders can now travel to Saudi Arabia using a visa on arrival or electronic visa without first having a valid United States, United Kingdom or Schengen visa.

Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation announced the change on Saturday, describing it as a significant travel and diplomatic development for the country.

Guyana is now the only country in South America whose passport holders can access Saudi Arabia's visa-on-arrival and electronic visa facilities without a third-country visa, according to the ministry.

Previously, Guyanese travellers were required to hold a valid US, UK or Schengen visa to qualify for a Saudi e-visa or visa on arrival. That requirement has now been removed.

The change is expected to make



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is now accessible to Guyanese

travel between Guyana and Saudi Arabia easier for people travelling for Umrah, tourism, visits to family and friends and

other purposes.

Guyanese travellers will also no longer need to use an agent or visit a

Saudi Arabian Embassy to access the facility. They can apply directly for an electronic visa or obtain a visa on arrival using their Guyanese passport and paying the applicable fee.

The ministry said the development follows intensified bilateral relations and ongoing discussions between Guyana and Saudi Arabia, particularly in trade, economic partnerships, investment, tourism and people-to-people relations.

The new travel arrangement is also expected to strengthen ties between the two countries.

The Guyanese government said it will continue working to enhance the features of the country's Machine Readable Passports in line with international standards and requirements, as it seeks to expand international travel opportunities for its citizens.

Guyana urges UN members to back Rodrigues-Birkett as SG race intensifies

Guyana has made a strong appeal for international support for its candidate, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, to become the next secretary-general of the United Nations, as reports of possible US opposition add another layer of uncertainty to an increasingly competitive race.

Guyana's President Irfaan Ali made the appeal on Thursday, September 24, during his address to the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He argued that the UN needs new leadership capable of rebuilding confidence in the organization and strengthening multilateral cooperation.

"It is in this spirit that Guyana has put forward the candidature of Her Excellency Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett for the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations," Ali said.

The election will determine the successor to current Secretary-General António Guterres, whose second term ends on December 31, 2026. The Security Council is expected to continue its informal consultations and straw polls following the General Assembly's high-level week, with the selection process potentially concluding in October.

The campaign comes as international media reports have raised questions about whether the United States would support Rodrigues-Birkett's candidacy.

The New York Times has reported that the Trump administration opposes Rodrigues-Birkett's candidacy in part because of her position on the war in Gaza, including her characterization of Israel's actions as genocide.

The reported US position could be significant because the United States is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council and therefore has veto power over the council's recommendation.

However, Ali has disputed reports that Washington has formally communicated an intention to veto his nominee. Speaking to reporters in New York this week, he said his engagements with UN member states had produced a positive response to Rodrigues-Birkett's candidacy.

"I'm very pleased to say that dur-



Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett

ing this week at the United Nations, I've engaged many stakeholders in relation to the candidacy of Carolyn Rodrigues, and I can say without a shadow of a doubt that the response has been overwhelming and very positive," Ali said, according to Guyanese media.

The United States has not publicly endorsed a candidate. A US State Department official said last week that Washington was seeking a candidate who would be "practical, driven and reform-focused" and would support changes to the UN, including greater efficiency and streamlined management.

In his General Assembly address, Ali presented Rodrigues-Birkett's background as central to Guyana's argument for her candidacy.

He said she has represented Guyana and the developing world while working within the multilateral system and gaining an understanding of both its strengths and shortcomings.

"We need leadership capable of restoring trust without compromising principles, of listening without surrendering conviction, of building bridges across the widening chasms between North and South, between large states and small, between the developed and developing world," Ali said.

He also highlighted Rodrigues-

Birkett's Indigenous background and upbringing in a small Indigenous community in Guyana.

"An Indigenous woman coming from a small Indigenous village, defying the odds — the odds against Indigenous persons, the odds against women, the odds against poverty," Ali said.

He described her career as one shaped by "struggle, sacrifice, and commitment" and appealed directly to the five permanent members of the Security Council and the wider UN membership to assess her candidacy on its merits. "Look beyond the small country that nominated her," Ali said.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has endorsed Rodrigues-Birkett's candidacy. Guyana formally nominated her in June, describing her as a candidate capable of contributing to the UN's multilateral system.

Rodrigues-Birkett has remained one of the leading candidates in the Security Council's informal straw polls.

In the third poll, held on September 18, Costa Rica's Rebeca Grynspan received nine "encourage" votes, five "discourage" votes and one "no opinion." Rodrigues-Birkett received eight "encourage" votes, six "discourage" votes and one "no opinion."

The results marked a change from the second poll in August, when Ro-

drigues-Birkett received the highest number of "encourage" votes, with eight, compared with seven each for Grynspan and Argentina's Rafael Grossi.

The straw polls are confidential and non-binding. They are intended to gauge the level of support for candidates before the Security Council eventually conducts a formal vote.

Under the UN Charter, the Security Council must recommend a candidate to the 193-member General Assembly. A substantive Security Council decision requires at least nine votes and cannot be adopted if one of the five permanent members — China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom or the United States — votes against it.

If selected, Rodrigues-Birkett would become the first woman and the first Caribbean national to serve as UN secretary-general. No woman has held the position since the organization was established more than 80 years ago.

Ali said Guyana was asking UN members to consider what Rodrigues-Birkett could bring to the organization rather than focusing on the size of the country putting her forward.

"We respectfully place before its members the candidature of Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, endorsed by the Caribbean Community; we invite all to consider her candidacy on its merits..."



The Indian government has praised captain Smit Machchhar for his "immense courage" during the attack

Flydubai co-pilot attacked captain with axe, UAE official says

The co-pilot who attempted to take control of a Flydubai plane travelling to Israel attacked the pilot with a crash axe, the United Arab Emirates prosecutor general has said.

The flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv carrying more than 170 people plunged 17,000ft (5,200m) two and a half hours into its journey, before passengers managed to overpower the attacker and successfully take control of the plane.

Capt Smit Machchhar said he was lying on the floor injured when he realised the plane was sinking and he had to act, explaining: "I told myself to go for one last push to open the door from inside", which allowed the passengers in.

Two reserve pilots then landed the plane safely in Saudi Arabia.

A crash axe is usually kept in the cockpit in case of emergencies.

The weapon used has been a key question for investigators, given the stringent security on such a sensitive route. Early reports from passengers on board had suggested it might have been a knife.

The UAE attorney general told state media that investigations were ongoing to determine the full circumstances and motives of the incident.

The co-pilot who launched the attack was an Omani national, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Multiple media outlets including Reuters, CNN and The New York Times have named him as Hamam al-Hammami. There has been no official confirmation of this.

While working at another airline, Oman Air, US media reported that Al-Hammami was removed from flight training because of concerns over his radical views, and was given another role at Oman's national airline.

Australian authorities confirmed on Sunday they were investigating his "links" to the country, but did not provide any details.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, cit-

ing sources, reported he was issued a student visa in 2014 and studied in Australia between 2015 and 2017 before leaving the country.

The ABC said his student visa was cancelled in 2019 as he was not enrolled in a course at that time.

Counter-terrorism officials will look at whether the man was radicalised in Australia, the ABC reported.

He then completed a three-year distance-learning course run by Buckinghamshire New University in the UK and graduated with a degree in aviation management in 2023, the university said. It added he did not take any pilot training at the school.

Speaking to Fox News, Netanyahu said that after the attacker was subdued on the flight, he called out to the crew "Kill me, kill me!"

The Israeli prime minister added: "So, it's clear that he was suicidal... It looks very likely that he was going to down the plane."

He also said the attacker "underwent Islamist radical indoctrination".

The UAE's attorney general, Hamad Saif Al Shamsi, said investigations into the incident revealed that the co-pilot attempted to carry out a "terrorist act", according to the country's state news agency.

He also said investigations were under way to establish the circumstances, motives and any links related to the incident.

Machchhar, who was stabbed in the attack, was taken to a nearby hospital before being airlifted to Abu Dhabi, where he is reported to be in a stable condition.

The pilot, who is from India, was in "good health and recovering well", the Indian embassy in the UAE said on Thursday.

"I am confident that the recovery will be there and I will become fit and healthy again," Machchhar said.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): If you tell someone what they want to hear today they will thank you for it, but they won't thank you later on when they find out you were being economical with the truth. Better to hurt their feelings now than lose them money later on.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): Today's Venus-Mercury link in your opposite sign means you must communicate openly and honestly with other people, while not expecting them to do the same for you. If they are happy being deceitful that's up to them, but your standards are higher.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): By all means push on with a task or project of some kind today, but if you find that the going is slow you might like to see that as a message from the universe to hold off for a bit. Give your previous efforts time to bed in.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): You may be sensitive to other people's feelings but don't expect them to be sensitive to yours. The message of the stars today is that you will need a thick skin when dealing with colleagues whose ambitions are at odds with your own.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): The facts and figures may be all on your side but that won't stop some people questioning if you know what you are talking about. Don't waste your time trying to convince them, because they don't want to hear. Trust yourself to move ahead without them.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): If a friend or colleague makes a mess of what you are working on together don't get angry with them. The only way they will improve is if you build up their confidence, so praise them for what they get right and leave the rest unsaid.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): The more daunting the task you face today the more determined you will be to make a good job of it. You know that some people have doubts about your capabilities and you are determined to prove them wrong. They won't doubt you much longer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): There can be no more excuses for delaying what has to be done. That means no more excuses from you, and no more excuses from other people. Identify your objective and go after it to the exclusion of everything else over the next 24 hours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): By all means look ahead and imagine where you might be and what you might be doing a month or a year from now, but don't lose sight of what needs to be done this very moment. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): Don't worry that by doing something different you might damage your reputation. Worry instead that if you don't do it you may forever regret not being more adventurous. If you fail, it will be no big deal. If you succeed, it will be a very big deal indeed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): You need to keep important people on your side and what that means more than anything is that you watch what you say to them. It's good that you like to be honest but on this occasion honesty could be the last thing they want to hear.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): Ideas will come thick and fast over the next 24 hours, but because mind planet Mercury is linked to Venus, currently going through its retrograde phase, some of those ideas could be hugely impractical. Only start what you know for sure can be finished.

**Our
advertising works!
Try a low cost ad in
Equality News and reap
the benefits of the only
print weekly newspaper.**

Mottley calls for Caribbean to remain a zone of peace

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has called for the Caribbean to remain a zone of peace, warning against the region becoming “a theatre for confrontation or for the unilateral and unjustified use of force.”

Addressing the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Thursday, Mottley said Caribbean political leaders have a responsibility to help preserve the region’s peace and stability.

“The Caribbean must remain a Zone of Peace,” she said.

Mottley highlighted the security crisis in Haiti, where armed gangs continue to control large areas and undermine efforts to restore constitutional government following the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

She said the deteriorating security situation continues to hamper political renewal and economic recovery, even as preparations for a return to constitutional government move forward.

“Those efforts cannot succeed unless security improves, particularly in the areas containing more than half of Haiti’s electorate,” Mottley said.

Barbados, she said, supports the full deployment and renewal of the mandate of the multinational security mission authorised by the UN Security Council to combat armed gangs in Haiti.

“Let me remind you that it was in 2022 that this recent, more heightened



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley

state of insecurity began with the fuel riots. Enough is enough,” she said.

Mottley also thanked countries that have contributed to efforts to help Haiti address its crisis, including members of the Caribbean Community’s (CARICOM) Eminent Persons Group.

The three-member group is chaired by former St Lucia Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony and includes former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding and former Bahamas Prime Minister Perry Christie.

Mottley said the group has been working to build consensus among Haitian stakeholders and maintain engagement with international partners.

The Barbadian leader also raised

concerns about what she described as worsening humanitarian pressures in Cuba amid continued US economic and trade restrictions against Havana.

“Too many people are suffering. Restrictions on trade, finance and access to fuel are intensifying hardship not only for Cuban citizens, but also for all others who study and live there,” Mottley said.

Barbados, she said, has consistently opposed the US embargo and other unilateral coercive measures against Cuba.

“As always, we call for constructive engagement. This must be grounded in dialogue, sovereign equality and respect for international law,” she said.

Mottley also expressed Barbados’ solidarity with Venezuela following the devastating earthquakes that struck the country in June, saying Bridgetown remained committed to supporting its longer-term recovery.

“A stable, sovereign, peaceful and democratic Venezuela is vital to the security and prosperity of the wider Caribbean,” she said.

She used the opportunity to reiterate Barbados’ support for Guyana as it pursues a peaceful resolution of its longstanding border controversy with Venezuela through the International Court of Justice.

“This is in the interest of the people of Guyana, Venezuela and the people of the wider Caribbean,” Mottley said.

JA welcomes first cohort of 43 Ghanaian nurses

Jamaica welcomed its first cohort of 43 Ghanaian nurses on Monday as part of a four-year bilateral health agreement aimed at strengthening the country’s healthcare workforce.

The nurses arrived at Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston as Jamaica begins implementing an agreement with Ghana that targets the recruitment and temporary deployment of up to 400 healthcare workers to the island.

The agreement, signed earlier this year, provides a framework for the voluntary recruitment of Ghanaian health professionals, particularly nurses and doctors, while promoting cooperation between the two countries and ethical international recruitment practices.

Health and Wellness Minister Christopher Tufton said the arrival of the first group marks an important step in efforts to strengthen Jamaica’s healthcare workforce.

“We warmly welcome the Ghanaian nurses and look forward to the valuable contribution they will make to our health system and the people we serve,”



Some of the newly arrived Ghanaian nurses

Tufton said.

The ministry said the recruitment is aligned with its Vision for Health 2030 plan and Human Resource for Health Stabilization Strategy.

The nurses will be assigned to public hospitals across the island, with the majority expected to work in facilities under the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) and South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA).

WRHA oversees public health facilities in St. James, Westmoreland, Trelawny and Hanover, while SERHA

covers Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Thomas and St. Catherine.

The nurses have specialties including critical care, paediatrics, operating theatre, nursing and midwifery, emergency care, oncology and mental health and psychiatric care. Others will be assigned to the island’s other health regions and the University Hospital of the West Indies.

The four-year agreement was signed during a Jamaican delegation’s visit to Ghana in May by Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Kamina Johnson Smith and Tufton, along with their Ghanaian counterparts.

Beyond workforce recruitment, Jamaica and Ghana plan to expand health cooperation in areas including primary care reform, national health insurance and the management of non-communicable diseases.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness said the broader partnership will facilitate the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources between the two countries.

T&T proposes higher legal ages for alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and gambling

The Trinidad and Tobago Government is proposing to raise the minimum legal age for alcohol and tobacco from 18 to 21, while increasing the legal age for cannabis and gambling from 18 to 25.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar announced the proposed changes Monday, saying the measures are intended to strengthen protections for young people.

The government is expected to introduce a bill in Parliament on Wednesday to amend several laws, including the Dangerous Drugs Act, Tobacco Control Act, Liquor Licences Act, Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Act and Cannabis Control Act.

Under the proposed amendments, the minimum legal age for the sale, purchase, possession or consumption of alcohol and tobacco would increase from 18 to 21.

The minimum legal age for the sale, purchase, possession or consumption of cannabis would rise from 18 to 25, while the minimum age for gambling would also increase from 18 to 25.

Persad-Bissessar said the government was acting to protect young people from the effects of early exposure to alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other drugs, as well as gambling.

“These measures are not arbitrary,”



T&T Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

the prime minister said, describing them as part of the government’s commitment to the health and safety of young people.

The proposed cannabis age limit is higher than the 21-year threshold Persad-Bissessar announced in January, according to TTT News. She had

previously said the government intended to raise the legal age for cannabis from 18 to 21.

The government’s proposed legislation would amend seven pieces of legislation: the Dangerous Drugs Act, Registration of Clubs Act, Tobacco Con-

trol Act, Children Act, Liquor Licences Act, Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Act 2021 and Cannabis Control Act 2022.

The changes remain proposals until the legislation is passed and comes into force.

A&B releases counter-proposal on third-country nationals

The Antigua and Barbuda Government has released the United States’ proposal for the possible transfer of third-country nationals removed from the US, along with its own counter-proposal outlining conditions for any such arrangement.

The documents were released Monday and are to be tabled in the House of Representatives by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Sir Steadroy Benjamin.

The government stressed that no agreement has been reached and that discussions with Washington are continuing.

“The United States document is a proposal and the Antigua and Barbuda document is a counter-proposal,” the government said in a statement.

The discussions form part of a wider US initiative involving countries in different regions, including several members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Some CARICOM countries have already entered into arrangements with the US, while others are still considering proposals.

Antigua and Barbuda said it is assessing whether it can cooperate with Washington while protecting its national interests, sovereignty and limited

capacity.

Under the counter-proposal, every person proposed for transfer would have to be considered individually and receive the prior express written approval of the Antigua and Barbuda Government.

The proposal would also limit transfers to a maximum of seven people in any three-month period. The government said the figure is a ceiling, not a quota or an obligation to accept any particular number of people.

The proposed procedures also include requirements covering eligibility, criminal and security screening, health, immigration history, protection claims and valid travel documents.

Each person would have to be informed that Antigua and Barbuda is the destination, understand that the arrangement would be temporary and indicate in writing a willingness to be transferred. Their admission and temporary stay would be governed by Antigua and Barbuda’s laws.

The counter-proposal further calls for financial and operational arrangements to ensure that the costs associated with receiving and supporting transferred individuals do not fall on Antigua and Barbuda taxpayers.

It also requires arrangements for the lawful return or onward placement of individuals when their temporary stay ends.

The government would retain the right to suspend further transfers if concerns arise over national security, public order, public health, capacity, finances or other serious matters.

The counter-proposal also envisages a possible supporting role for the International Organization for Migration, subject to the agency’s requirements and arrangements with the Antigua and Barbuda Government.

“The Government emphasises that the sovereign decision whether to accept or refuse any person proposed for transfer will remain with Antigua and Barbuda in every individual case,” the statement said.

The release follows the government’s decision in July to establish a parliamentary framework for any possible arrangement with Washington. That framework rejected an automatic or open-ended programme and required Antigua and Barbuda to retain the authority to approve or reject individuals on a case-by-case basis.

The government said publishing both documents and placing them be-

fore Parliament is intended to provide transparency on an issue involving national sovereignty, security, law, public finances and the national interest.

Earlier this month, Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the US, Sir Ronald Sanders, said negotiations were expected to resume at Washington’s request and stressed that no final agreement had been reached and no transfers had been authorised.



JN Money offers short-term loans to Jamaican farmworkers in Canada

JN Money is offering a short-term loan facility to Jamaican seasonal farmworkers in Canada to help them meet financial obligations in Jamaica before their regular earnings begin.

The facility is designed to provide workers with access to funds at the start of the agricultural season, when they may have arrived in Canada and started working but have not yet earned enough to cover immediate expenses at home.

For Linton Pearson, a Portmore, St Catherine, resident who has participated in Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Worker Programme for 26 years, the facility has helped him manage expenses during the early part of the farming season.

Pearson works from April to November on a vegetable farm in Simcoe, Ontario, alongside nearly 60 other workers, about 45 of whom are Jamaicans. The more than 100-acre farm produces crops including Chinese cabbage, radishes, sweet potatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis and Chinese melons.

Pearson said the nature of seasonal farm work means his income can vary, with some periods requiring seven days of work each week and others involving reduced hours.

He has accessed the JN Money loan facility four times to help cover



The loan facility will provide workers with access to funds at the start of the agricultural season

immediate financial needs before his regular earnings become available.

“When we just came up, [money was] not available. So, it comes in handy at that time,” he said.

Claude Thompson, regional manager at JN Money, said the facility was developed to address the financial challenges faced by seasonal farmworkers who have obligations in Jamaica while working abroad.

“The beginning of the farming season is often challenging for them as they are settling into work in Canada while at the same time, they have important financial commitments to meet back home,” Thompson said.

“This loan facility provides that timely bridge when funds may be limited, giving workers greater flexibility to address urgent needs while they wait for their salary,” he added.

Pearson, who has been married for 30 years and has five children, including two stepchildren, said his earnings from the programme have helped him support his family, build his home and make improvements to the property over the years.

He has also maintained a long-standing relationship with JN Money, using its remittance service to send money to Jamaica while working in Canada.

Pearson first joined the farm-worker programme after being introduced to the opportunity by his sister's boss. He said succeeding in the programme requires discipline and a willingness to work hard.

“It's not an easy work. You have to have manners and discipline, because that's what the boss is looking for,” he said. “Not everyone is willing to work as hard as is required and find it hard to keep up, but with a mind to work and teamwork effort, we can all achieve.”

Outside the agricultural season, Pearson uses his skills in cabinet-making and furniture construction to earn an income when he returns to Jamaica.

Red Bull Wings Cup brings EA SPORTS to Jamaica

Jamaican university students will have the chance to compete in EA SPORTS FC™ 27 for an opportunity to represent the country at the Red Bull Wings Cup World Final in Miami in early 2027.

Registration is now open for the Jamaican leg of the Red Bull Wings Cup, a new global gaming competition being held across nearly 80 countries in partnership with EA SPORTS and PlayStation.

The competition is open to gamers of varying skill levels, with participants competing for a place in the Jamaica National Final and the opportunity to become the country's first representative at the World Final.



The Jamaican leg of the Red Bull Wings Cup

In Jamaica, the competition will take place through a University League, with currently enrolled university students competing in on-campus qualifying events on PlayStation 5 consoles. Players will compete in EA SPORTS FC 27 Rush against students

from universities across the country.

The first qualifying events are scheduled for:
Oct. 1-2, 2026: University of the West Indies (UWI)
Oct. 7-8, 2026: University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech)

Participants will earn points throughout the competition, with the highest-ranked players advancing to the Jamaica National Final.

The national champion will earn the opportunity to represent Jamaica at the Red Bull Wings Cup World Final in Miami, where finalists from participating countries will compete in a tournament combining gaming and football culture.

The World Final is scheduled to take place in early 2027.

Red Bull Wings Cup is open to participants who meet the eligibility requirements for the Jamaican competition. Local terms and conditions apply.

Belize considers diplomatic response after alleged Guatemalan military incursion

Belize Prime Minister John Briceño has indicated that his government may recall Belize’s ambassador to Guatemala for consultations following an alleged incursion by a Guatemalan military aircraft into Belizean airspace.

Briceño also said his administration could summon Guatemala’s ambassador as Belize weighs its response to the incident, which has added tension to the countries’ longstanding territorial dispute.

The prime minister said Belize must respond carefully, while keeping diplomatic channels open and protecting the ongoing territorial case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

“That’s what all countries do when something happens in another country. You bring in your ambassador to get a clear understanding, discuss it, and understand what’s going on from the other side. Every country does that,” Briceño said.

He stressed the importance of maintaining communication with Guatemala despite the dispute.

“At the same time, it is important that we always remain connected with the Guatemalan government. We are neighbors; that’s not going to change,” he said.

Briceño said he remained confident that Belize would prevail in the ICJ case.

“We believe that at the ICJ, we have every confidence that we are going to win that case, so we have to maintain good relationships with Guatemala,” he said.

Belize and Guatemala have a long-standing territorial dispute, with Guatemala claiming territory, islands and maritime areas that Belize considers part of its sovereign territory. The dispute is currently before the ICJ.

The two countries resumed discussions on the dispute in March 2000 with the assistance of the Organization of American States (OAS). They signed their first Agreement on Confidence Building Measures on Nov. 8, 2000, establishing an “Adjacency Line” and a one-kilometer “Adjacency Zone” on either side.

A second agreement was signed on Feb. 7, 2003, and later amended in September 2005 through the Agreement on a Framework for Negotiation and Confidence Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala.

Briceño said last week that Belize had moved closer to a resolution of the dispute after being informed on Sept. 17 that the ICJ would begin hearing oral arguments in the Belize-Guatemala case in February 2027. The court will subsequently hear oral arguments in the separate Belize-Honduras case.

“For too long, our borders have been disputed by our neighbor, Guatemala. We look forward to the end of this process, when we believe Belize



Belize Prime Minister John Briceño

will be vindicated, and we can strengthen and enhance relations with the government and the great Guatemalan people,” Briceño said.

Guatemala has requested an OAS verification exercise into the latest incident. Briceño defended the request while questioning Guatemala’s handling of the matter.

“Let’s put it this way: if it were you, wouldn’t you do the same?” he said.

“Try to bluff your way out of something? And that’s exactly what they’re trying to do: bluff their way out, and I do have confidence in the OAS verification.”

Briceño said the OAS has been “quite even-handed” in its handling of issues involving the two countries, although he acknowledged that the organisation can sometimes take too long to complete its work.

Guatemalan officials have agreed to submit reports and the aircraft involved for review, while Guatemalan leaders have denied that the alleged flight occurred.

Meanwhile, Belize Opposition Leader Tracy Panton said the incident should not be politicized and called for a nonpartisan approach to protecting

the country’s territorial integrity.

“The situation with the veiled and maybe not-so-veiled threats of the Guatemalan military, the aggression, the intimidation that we experienced this month in particular is no laughing matter,” Panton said.

“It should not be something we take lightly. It should not also be something we politicize. There should be a nonpartisan approach to safeguarding Belize’s territorial integrity and to protecting our sovereignty,” she added.

Panton said Belize should continue relying on diplomacy given the military imbalance between the two countries.

“The truth of the matter is, Belize does not have the military firepower that

our neighbor in Guatemala has. So, we have to use diplomacy. But we must use it with clarity, with consistency, and we need to ensure we remain true to the concerns of the Belizean people,” she said.

Panton also criticized what she described as mixed signals from the government, pointing to social interactions between Belizean and Guatemalan officials.

“You can’t say, on one hand, that you denounce Guatemala’s aggression and then, on the other hand, your wife is spending time with Guatemala’s first lady. It is wholly unacceptable,” she said.



US Coast Guard suspends search for missing air ambulance from Bermuda

Bermuda Premier David Burt said he remains hopeful that all six people aboard an air ambulance aircraft that disappeared after leaving Bermuda for the United States will be found, despite the U.S. Coast Guard's decision to suspend its search.

The aircraft, a Gulfstream G100 jet operated by Hamilton-based medical evacuation company Latitude Air Ambulance, departed Bermuda in the early hours of Saturday. It was carrying two Bermudians and four Canadians.

The U.S. Coast Guard Northeast District announced Sunday night that it had suspended the search after crews located an extensive debris field about 20 miles off Nantucket, Massachusetts.

“Suspending a search is not an easy decision. We express our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones affected by the tragedy and our gratitude for our partner agencies who helped support search effort,” said Rear Adm. Matthew Lake, commander of the Northeast District.

Burt said the Bermuda government remains in contact with relevant authorities and is continuing to monitor developments.

“The Government of Bermuda continues to monitor the situation and remains in contact with relevant authorities. All of Bermuda’s thoughts remain with the individuals on board, their families and loved ones,” the government said in a statement.

The identities of those aboard have not been made public.

Burt said in an earlier statement that he was praying for the safe recovery of all six people aboard the aircraft and



The Canadian Air Ambulance went missing on a flight from Bermuda to Boston

thanked search-and-rescue crews for their efforts.

“We are praying that all six people will be found safe, and we thank the search and rescue crews for their continuing effort,” he said.

According to the Coast Guard, the search covered 4,445 square miles of ocean over approximately 66 hours. Air traffic controllers reported that the pilot had declared an emergency because of electrical issues before the aircraft was lost.

The debris field was described as extensive and was located in waters about 80 to 90 feet deep. Coast Guard officials said the amount of debris made it difficult to determine exactly what was in the field.

Capt. John McTamney said weather conditions had been favorable for the search. “We will continue to search and saturate the area until we’re at the point that, if there were any survivors remaining on the surface of the water, we would have found them,” he said.

The Coast Guard said investigative authorities will coordinate a future investigation into the cause of the incident.

Lake said the Coast Guard was also working with Massachusetts authorities to bring a vessel with sonar capabilities into the area to scan the seafloor.

“I want you to know that my thoughts and those of every Coast Guard crew member are with the people on that aircraft, their families, their friends and their loved ones during this incredibly difficult time,” Lake said.



Advertise and survive as the holiday season approaches with a low cost ad in Equality News 647-216-2359

NEXT ROOFING AND HOME SOLUTION

1000 Purpledusk Trail scarborough ON M1E 4C8

LICENSE AND TRADER CONTRACTOR
SPECIALIZES IN ROOFING AND SIDING
ALL OUT SIDE HOMES
AND WSIB AND INSURANCE

Jemal Said
Owner
647-676-6699
onextroofingsulotiin@gmail.com
www.nrsroofing.com

NEXT ROOFING SOLUTION SERVICES:

- Shingles Roof
- Flat Roof
- Metal Roof
- Window Frame
- Gutter Cleaning
- Leaf Screen
- Shelter
- Aluminum
- Eavestrough
- Soffit
- Fascia
- Sliding
- Vinyl Sliding
- Skylight

FREE ESTIMATE

Hope’s heroics power Windies to record chase and consolation win

Shai Hope produced another batting masterclass to propel the West Indies to their highest-ever successful ODI run chase, completing a remarkable five-wicket victory over India in the third and final match on Saturday.

Hope followed his century in the second ODI with an unbeaten 162 from 143 balls, carrying the West Indies to 352 for five in 48.2 overs after India posted 351 for seven at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium.

The result could not alter the outcome of the series, which India had already secured by winning the opening two matches, but it gave the West Indies a deserved victory to close the campaign.

It also capped a superb series for the West Indies batting unit, with Hope once again providing the innings with its foundation, control and finishing power.

Hope was pushed up the order to open alongside John Campbell after Jewel Andrew injured his hand while fielding.

The pair immediately attacked India’s bowling, racing to 41 in the first four overs before Campbell’s dismissal interrupted the momentum.

Campbell, dropped on nine, added only one more run before Mohammed Siraj beat him with a full, straight delivery and knocked him over.

Hope then joined forces with Amir Jangoo in a 109-run, second-wicket partnership that shifted the pressure back onto India.

He reached his 33rd ODI half-century from 46 balls, while Jangoo survived a significant opportunity when Virat Kohli dropped him at backward point on 34.

Jangoo capitalized on the reprieve, reaching his half-century from 47 balls, but the partnership ended through miscommunication. Jangoo was run out at the non-striker’s end after setting off for a single that Hope had little interest in taking.

Sherfane Rutherford supplied another important contribution, striking 24 from 25 balls and adding 56 with Hope as the West Indies moved beyond 200.

Rutherford’s dismissal came amid controversy. He was given out caught behind off Naman Dhir, but the review failed to produce conclusive evidence to overturn the decision, leaving the West Indies 206 for three after 30 overs.

Hope, meanwhile, continued despite struggling physically and soon reached his 21st ODI century from 104 balls, bringing up the milestone with a single off Kuldeep Yadav.

His movement became increasingly restricted, but Keemo Paul en-



Shai Hope — had one of his finest innings yet

sured the chase retained its momentum.

Paul hammered 44 from 35 balls during a 65-run partnership with Hope, taking most of the pressure off the limping opener and keeping the West Indies firmly in control.

India briefly threatened a late turnaround when Paul was caught at deep midwicket off Gurnoor Brar and Yadav removed Matthew Forde for seven.

At 290 for five in the 44th over, the West Indies still needed a composed finish.

Hope provided it.

Hope became the first wicket-keeper-batsman to score 150 in a men's ODI and remained unbeaten through the chase.

Gudakesh Motie joined him for the final assault, contributing an unbeaten 19 from 14 balls as the pair added 62 without being separated.

Hope finished with 17 fours and three sixes during a 255-minute stay at the crease, completing his second successive century of the series in emphatic fashion.

The victory was the West Indies’ highest successful ODI chase, giving the team a significant consolation result after India had dominated the opening two matches.

Seales strikes early before Rahul turns the tide

India’s imposing total appeared unlikely during the early stages of its innings.

Jayden Seales ripped into the hosts’ top order in a devastating opening spell, removing captain Shubman Gill for one when Hope took a diving catch behind the stumps.

Two balls later, Seales bowled Kohli through the gate for a duck, leaving India four for two.

Rohit Sharma and Ruturaj Gaikwad then rebuilt the innings with a 137-run partnership.

Sharma made 92 from 85 balls, while Gaikwad survived four dropped chances on his way to 57 from 69 balls.

Paul eventually broke the partnership by dismissing Sharma, but India found another gear through KL Rahul.

Rahul transformed the innings with an unbeaten 129 from only 87 deliveries, striking 10 fours and six sixes as India plundered 106 runs from the final 10 overs.

India reached 351 for seven, setting the West Indies a formidable target.

Seales finished with three for 62, while Paul claimed two for 71.

But Hope’s extraordinary innings

ensured that India’s imposing total was not enough.

The West Indies ultimately matched India’s 351 and surpassed it with 10 balls to spare, closing the series with a performance built around one of Hope’s finest ODI innings.

Advertise and survive with a low cost ad in Equality News. In print and online weekly. 647-216-2359

Happy Thanksgiving



Superking Supermarket

鴻發超市



We are OPEN during Public Holidays- Thanksgiving day 公众假期照常营业

Special Offers Effective: Friday Oct. 09 To Thursday Oct. 15, 2026.



VEGETABLE & FRUIT

Mama Squash 媽味瓜 Reg:\$0.99	Chinese Carrot 中國紅蘿卜 Reg:\$0.99	Cabbage 高麗菜 Reg:\$0.99	Celery 西芹 Reg:\$1.59	Red Pepper 紅椒 Reg:\$1.59	Ginger(Organic) 有機薑 Reg:\$1.99	Big Taro 大芋頭 Reg:\$1.79
Roma Tomato 羅馬番茄 Reg:\$1.99	Bok Choy Sum 白菜心 Reg:\$1.99	Shanghai Miu 上海苗 Reg:\$2.29	South Africa Orange 南非橙 Reg:\$1.59	Hami Melon 青皮瓜 Reg:\$1.59	Asian Pear 水晶梨 Reg:\$1.59	
Thai Banana 泰蕉 Reg:\$1.59	Cactus Fruit 仙人掌果 Reg:\$1.59	Sugarcane 黑甘蔗 Reg:\$1.99	Chinese Fuji Apple 中國富士蘋果 Reg:\$1.79	Small Red Grape 小紅提 Reg:\$3.99	Yellow Date 黃金棗 Reg:\$4.99	
59¢ lb	69¢ lb	79¢ lb	99¢ ea	99¢ lb	129¢ lb	129¢ lb
129¢ lb	139¢ lb	169¢ lb	79¢ lb	79¢ lb	99¢ lb	
99¢ lb	99¢ lb	99¢ ea	129¢ lb	299¢ lb	299¢ lb	

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Red Pepper 11Lb 紅椒	Korean Cabbage 高麗菜	Carrot 50Lb 紅蘿卜	Cucumber 長青瓜	Spanish Onion 大洋葱	Lemon 18kg 黃檸檬	Crown Broccoli 西蘭花
10.00 case	18.00 case	19.00 bag	20.00 case	35.00 bag	35.00 case	39.00 case
Green Onion 蔥	Green Leaf Lettuce 唐生菜	Avocados 365 牛油果	Head On Shrimp 30/40 有頭白蝦 24Lb	Headless White Shrimp 無頭白蝦 21-25 10x4Lb	Frozen Pacific White Shrimp 91/110 10x4Lb 精選白蝦	Iriple Crown Vegetable Spring Roll 10x1000g 春卷
50.00 case	60.00 case	48.00 case	120.00 case	210.00 case	155.00 case	40.00 case
Extra Large Egg 箱裝大雞蛋	Beef Small Intestine 牛小腸 30Lb	Fresh Chicken Leg Quarter 18kg 新鮮雞大腿	Pork Stomach 10kg 豬肚	Chicken Breast 25kg 雞胸肉	Pork Intestine 10kg 豬大腸	Saporito Vegetable / Canola Oil 16L 菜油/菜籽油
56.99 case	75.00 case	77.99 case	30.00 case	280.00 case	50.00 case	43.99 case
Mr. Goudas Long Grain Rice 20kg 黃米	Dunya Long Grain White Rice 20kg 優質白米	P.R.B Monosodium Glutamate 50Lb 珠江橋牌味精	Redpath Sugar 20kg 白糖	ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg	LKK Chun Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李錦記錦珍鮮味蠔油 6x2.2Kg	TS-018 MFPP Clamshell Container 200pcs 餐盒
32.99 bag	29.99 bag	49.99 bag	26.99 bag	20.99 bag	37.99 case	17.99 case
PP-881 MFPP Clamshell Container 餐盒 150pcs	PP-993 MFPP Clamshell Container 餐盒 150pcs	YS-64 Microwavable Plastic Soup & Deli Container 120sets 帶蓋湯盒	S-32 Microwavable Plastic Soup & Deli Container 240sets 帶蓋湯盒	S-24 Microwavable Plastic Soup & Deli Container 240sets 帶蓋湯盒	CN-38W Microwavable Container 150sets 帶蓋餐盒	868 Microwavable Container 150sets 帶蓋餐盒
24.99 case	29.99 case	39.99 case	39.99 case	32.99 case	29.99 case	25.99 case
16.99 case						

FROZEN

SH Raw White Shrimp 16/20 白蝦 2Lb Reg:\$16.99	Sarangani Bay Marinated Milkfish 350g 開罐牛奶魚 Reg:\$6.99	BF Cut Descaled Bangus Milkfish 400g 牛奶魚 Reg:\$6.99	Chorip Dong Assorted Fried Fish Ball 500g 韓國混合魚丸 Reg:\$5.99	AA-1 Smelt 300g 雪魚仔 Reg:\$4.99	Red Fish Series 750g 紅魚 Reg:\$10.99
12.99 ea	5.99 ea	5.99 ea	4.88 ea	3.99 ea	8.99 ea
Great Lake Bangamary Fish 鱈與三牙魚 Reg:\$5.59	Silk Almond Milk Series 杏仁牛奶 1.89L Reg:\$6.99	Gay Lea Butter Series 454g 黃油 Reg:\$8.99	Schneiders Original Ham 施耐德原味火腿 Reg:\$13.99	Tatak Pinoy Tender Sausage Series 300g 臘仔 Reg:\$4.59/ea	Searay Goby 340g 活凍泥鰍魚 Reg:\$9.99
3.99 lb	4.99 ea	6.99 ea	8.99 ea	2/\$7.00	6.99 ea

GROCERY

Knorr Chicken Broth Mix 1kg 家樂雞粉 Reg:\$12.99	LKK Kum Chun Oyster Flavor Sauce 480g 李錦記錦珍鮮味蠔油 Reg:\$2.99	Chinsu Soy Sauce 650ml 醬油 Reg:\$2.59
7.59 ea	1.88 ea	1.59 ea
Choysco Quail Eggs In Water 鴨蛋 425g Reg:\$2.99	Red Skin Peanut 5Lb 紅衣花生 Reg:\$13.99	Grace Long Grain Parboiled/ White Rice 2kg 白米/黃米 Reg:\$6.99
1.79 ea	8.88 ea	4.59 ea
Big Foot Corn Snack-Cheese Flavoured 25g 芝士玉米零食 Reg:\$0.99/ea	Binbin Rice Cracker 150g 寶寶米果 Reg:\$2.99	Bong Bong's Special Playa 190g Reg:\$2.99
2/\$1.00	1.88 ea	1.99 ea
Monde Eggnog Cookies 雞蛋餅乾 130g Reg:\$1.99	Danisa Butter Cookies 200g 黃油餅乾 Reg:\$3.99	Hong Yuan Classic Series Guava Candy 350g 番石榴糖 Reg:\$2.99
1.29 ea	1.99 ea	1.59 ea
Lucky Me Chicken Sotanghon Instant Vermicelli Soup 28g 方便麵 Reg:\$1.59	Mang Tomas All Purpose Sauce 550g 醬汁 Reg:\$3.59	Aroy-D Coconut Milk 1L 椰奶 Reg:\$5.99
99¢ ea	1.99 ea	3.59 ea
S&W Pineapple Chunk 糖水菠蘿 540ml Reg:\$2.59	Renso Foods Coconut Water 椰子水 1L Reg:\$2.99	Fleecy Plus 3-In-1 Fabric Care 衣物柔順劑 4.5L Reg:\$15.99
1.29 ea	1.99 ea	9.99 ea

MEAT

Pork Belly Boneless 無骨豬腩 Reg:\$4.99	Beef Sirloin Tip Steak 牛腩肉扒 Reg:\$8.99	Frozen Ox Tail 冰鮮牛尾 Reg:\$9.99
3.59 lb	7.59 lb	8.99 lb
Frozen Whole Rabbit (Without Head And Feet) 冰鮮兔子 Reg:\$7.59	Chicken Mid Wing 雞中翅 Reg:\$4.99	
6.59 lb	2.99 lb	

SEAFOOD

Live Cat Fish 游水鮎魚 Reg:\$5.99	Fresh Porgys 新鮮海立魚 Reg:\$3.99	Fresh Tuna 新鮮豬仔魚 Reg:\$15.99
4.99 lb	2.99 lb	4.99 lb
Live Blue Crab 生猛藍蟹 Reg:\$6.99	Frozen Fresh Head-On White Shrimp 冰鮮有頭南美白蝦 Reg:\$6.99	Pre Frozen Squid 冰鮮魷魚 Reg:\$7.99
3.99 lb	5.99 lb	6.99 lb

ETHNIC VISION
IMMIGRATION
SERVICES

OUR SERVICES

- SPECIALIST IN REFUGEE MATTERS
- APPEALS
- FAMILY SPONSORSHIP
- STUDENT VISAS
- STUDY PERMITS

Ritu Vashni Sharma
RCIC #R510878
FOUNDER/OPERATOR
Canadian Immigration Consultant

RVS LEGAL
SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION

We offer expert legal consulting services designed to provide clarity, guidance, and strategic solutions tailored to your unique needs and objectives

OUR SERVICES

- Specialized in Landlord and Tenant Matters
- Immigration Appeals
- Small Claims Court,
- Human Rights Tribunal
- Highway Traffic Offenses
- Notary Public
- Commissioner of Oaths for taking affidavits.
- & more.



CALL FOR CONSULTATION
(416) 799-2106

CALL FOR CONSULTATION
(416) 799-2106



PETE'S

IS IN BUSINESS OVER 40 YEARS

REAL ESTATE

We can sell your property for the best price on the market

- **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**
- **PROPERTY SALES & RENTALS**
- **REAL ESTATE VALUATION**

A Complete Real Estate Service:

- ✓ **Buying**
- ✓ **Selling**
- ✓ **Rentals**
- ✓ **Tax Compliance**

Contact: 223-6218, 623-7805, 656-5544



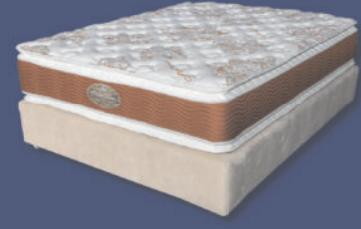
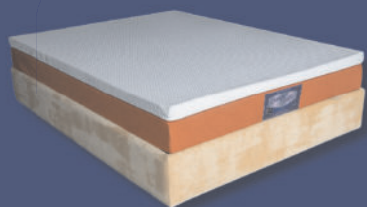
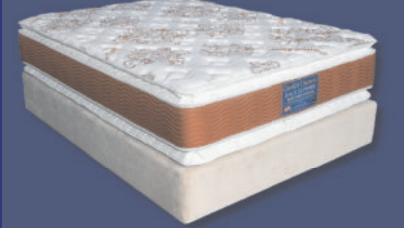
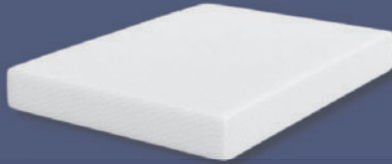
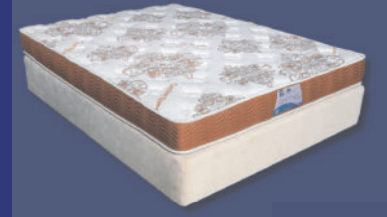
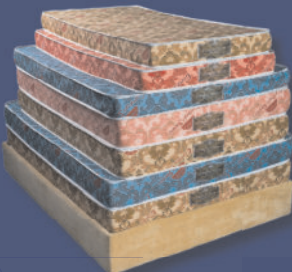
Comfort Sleep Inc.
Sleep on ... Dream on...

A Better You Starts with Better Sleep

GUYANA'S
CHOICE FOR **BETTER SLEEP**

REST TODAY A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Our Mattress Collections

	Comfort Dreamer <i>Back Support</i> Durable support with pocket coil comfort.		Comfort-Pedic <i>Memory Foam</i> Exclusive memory foam comfort.
	Comfort Custom <i>Luxury Euro Top</i> Comfy, restful, durable.		Comfort Classic Deluxe Supportive foam comfort.
	Comfort Custom <i>Luxury</i> Exclusive two-sided pillow-top comfort.		Comfort Cool <i>Gel Foam</i> Cool, pressure-relieving comfort.
	Comfort <i>Night Magic</i> Firm, durable, comfortable.		Comfort <i>Foam Mattress</i> Affordable comfort everyday support

Pillows
The perfect support for a better you.





Since 2003



International Standards



Zero Refunds to Date



Classic to Contemporary



QUALITY PRODUCTS



EXPERT ADVICE



RELIABLE SERVICE



A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER YOU



49 Industrial Estate, Eccles, E.B.D., Guyana, S.A.



592-233-3013 | 592-233-2677



www.comfortsleep.gy

Proudly Guyana's Choice



Discover Guyana – Plan your trip today!

Come Home to Celebrate!

Be part of history - Guyana’s 60th Independence Diamond Jubilee.



His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali,
President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
Keynote Speaker

SOTIC26
STATE OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 5-9, 2026 — GUYANA

Caribbean Tourism Organisation
CARIBBEAN
GUYANA
South America Undiscovered

GMR SC
CIRCUIT
CHAMPIONSHIP | ROUND 1 27th SEPTEMBER, 2026 | 10:00AM
South Dakota Circuit | Adults \$4000, KIDS \$2000
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
GUYANA ENet GUYOIL KFC Castrol

Rupununi
Music & Arts
Festival
16.17.18 OCTOBER 2026
MANARI RANCH,
NEAR LETHEN