

Antigua and Barbuda Renews Call for Stronger Air Connectivity Between Africa and the Caribbean

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Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to the CARICOM Summit in Jamaica: (L-R) Director of Development Cooperation, Barbara Williams, Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene, Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Henry and Senior Foreign Service Officer, Kurt Williams

Antigua and Barbuda Renews Call for Stronger Air Connectivity Between Africa and the Caribbean



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has renewed its call for the establishment of direct air links between the Caribbean and the African continent, urging fellow CARICOM member states to collectively support this transformative initiative at the upcoming Second Africa-CARICOM Summit, scheduled for September 7, 2025, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Speaking during the final plenary session of the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne underscored the immense potential for enhanced collaboration and economic partnerships between Africa and the Caribbean.

“There are tremendous opportunities for our region to deepen cooperation with Africa—particularly in trade, e-commerce, agriculture, and sports. But most critically, the establishment of direct air links will serve as the catalyst for unlocking these possibilities,” Prime Minister Browne stated.

The Prime Minister emphasized that air connectivity remains a critical enabler for strengthening economic, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. He reflected on Antigua and Barbuda’s past efforts to initiate direct flights

through a partnership with Air Peace, which faced operational challenges.

“We must ensure that any future attempt to bridge the Caribbean and Africa by air is better managed, with the risks mitigated through proper plan-

ning and collective support,” he cautioned.

To this end, Prime Minister Browne proposed a strategic investment—both public and private—in the acquisition or leasing of at least two wide-body aircraft to facilitate regular passenger and cargo movement between the two regions.

“This is not only an economic imperative but an historical and cultural one. We must invest in the infrastructure that connects our people and builds a stronger transatlantic partnership rooted in shared heritage and mutual advancement,” he concluded.

Antigua and Barbuda will continue to champion this initiative leading up to the Africa-CARICOM Summit, positioning regional air connectivity as a cornerstone of future cooperation with the African continent.

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Requirements:

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- ☐ Extensive knowledge of applicable driving rules regulations.
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Suitably qualified applicants are invited to email their applications to: humanresources.ntw@gmail.com on or before July 11, 2025.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Antigua and Barbuda accedes to CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene has deposited the Instrument of Accession for the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. The deposit was made during the second day of the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty aims to streamline the process of surrendering individuals between CARICOM member states for the purpose of prosecution or serving a sentence. The treaty enhances law enforcement cooperation and simplifies the process for apprehending individuals who commit crimes in one CARICOM country and then flee to another.




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Local News



Training now underway for the 2025 Population and Housing Census



“We encourage anyone who has applied to work on the 2025 Census and has not yet received an email to contact the Census Office immediately for assistance or clarification,” a media release from the Census Office stated.

For any questions or further information, those concerned are asked to get in touch with the Census Office at: 562-7495 or 462-

4775 or 562-7492.

“Your participation is vital to ensuring a complete and accurate count of the population. The data collected will inform national planning, policy-making and resource allocation for years to come,” the release noted.

The theme for this year’s census is: “Mapping the Present, Shaping the Future.”

One of the key prerequisites that must take place before the field-work aspect of the National Population and Housing Census; the training of field workers, is now underway.

That’s according to the National Bureau of Statistics, which has announced through the Census Office, that training for the 2025 Population and Housing Census has officially commenced.

Training will run from July 7th to the 18th. This marks a significant milestone in the preparation for the execution of the Census.

“All selected Census workers are advised to check their email inboxes for important training schedules, instructions, and updates. Attendance at these training sessions are mandatory to ensure the successful and accurate collection of census data across the nation.





THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

SIMULATION LABORATORY INSTRUCTOR
(Salary Range: XCD\$102,021.00-XCD\$109,866.00 per annum)
School of Health and Behavioural Sciences

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Managing and coordinating the activities of the Simulation Laboratory; which is a specialised facility that provides hands-on training and education to nursing students and other healthcare professionals using high-fidelity simulators and other instructional technology.
- Ensuring that students receive high-quality training and education using simulation technology.
- Identifying training needs, developing simulation scenarios, and managing the day-to-day operations of the lab.
- Maintaining communication with programme and year coordinators and faculty.
- Conducting and maintaining an accurate inventory of equipment and supplies and being proficient in preparing and processing order forms in accordance with institutional procurement policies.

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a Health-related discipline required. Master's degree preferred.
- Current licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) and/or current Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Minimum of three (3) years of clinical simulation experience

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Experience in nursing simulation education or lab coordination experience working with mannequins, and software including Laerdal
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Knowledge of simulation technology and instructional design principles
- Strong organizational and record-keeping skills

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form**, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), a statement on teaching and research interests and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to the **Employee Success Department, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 18th July 2025**. Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua by **August 1, 2025**. An attractive salary package is offered.

The University of the West Indies is an equal opportunity employer. The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Local News



JCI Antigua Announces the 2025 Youth Empowerment (YEP) Awards – Nominations Now Open

JCI Antigua has announced the return of the Youth Empowerment (YEP) Awards, set to take place in November 2025.

The YEP awards ceremony is an annual event organized by JCI Antigua and it aims to recognize and celebrate 10 of Antigua and Barbuda's most outstanding young individuals whose hard work, dedication, and positive influence have made a significant impact on their communities and the nation as a whole.

According to a spokesman for JCI Antigua this prestigious initiative serves not only to spotlight youth achievements but also to inspire the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers.

“Through the YEP Awards, JCI Antigua underscores the importance of empowering and uplifting young people by giving them the recognition they deserve. Honouring their accomplishments is a powerful way to encourage continued service, leadership, and excellence within Antigua and Barbuda,” the spokesman stated.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

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REQUIREMENTS

- ✦ Student at Antigua State College or the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI)
- ✦ Student entering final year of study
- ✦ Minimum “B-” grade average

Application Deadline
31 JULY, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHAIRMAN SUMMER HECTOR
(268) 732-4417

CHAIRMAN KENESHA DENNIS
(268) 775-1441

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Nominations are now officially open.

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19 JULY 2025 | 7 PM ADM: \$20 CARNIVAL CITY

ANTIGUA CARIBBEAN FESTIVALS COMMISSION



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

The UWI Five Islands Campus invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Web Programmer (IT Officer I)**.

The UWI Five Islands Campus Information Technology Services (CITS) seeks a Web Programmer to support strategic growth objectives. This role addresses evolving IT demands by providing scalable resources for technological advancement. The position focuses on developing, maintaining, and optimizing campus websites, web-based applications, and platforms to ensure seamless user experiences. As FIC expands, this skilled team member will be essential for delivering high-quality IT support and reliable system operations that align with business objectives.

Duties of the post include the following:

- **Web Development & Optimization:** Designs, codes, modifies and troubleshoots web applications, ensuring optimal usability, speed, and performance while creating intuitive online applications and user interfaces.
- **Campus Web Management:** Functions as Campus Web Master, maintaining all FIC websites in collaboration with Marketing to ensure university brand standards and providing technical support for Drupal CMS.
- **Database & Security Administration:** Administers databases to ensure data integrity, security and performance while managing user access and implementing proper security protocols for system users.
- **Cloud Services Management:** Manages cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) and ensures seamless integration with on-premises infrastructure systems.

Qualifications, Training and Experience:

- Education & Experience: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/Information Systems with a minimum of 5 years in web programming, design, and system administration
- Core Technical Skills: Proficiency in Python, PHP, JavaScript, SQL, HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript frameworks (React, Angular, Vue.js); deep expertise in Drupal CMS
- Infrastructure & Platforms: Experience with server operating systems (Linux, Windows Server), cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud), and database technologies (Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, SQL Server)
- Security & Best Practices: Knowledge of secure coding practices, web vulnerability assessments, penetration testing, and security frameworks (OAuth, SSL/TLS, SSO)
- Support & Specialization: Experience providing technical support and end-user training; familiarity with higher education applications (Ellucian Banner preferred)

Key Competencies:

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Attention to detail and a commitment to quality.

Salary will be fixed in accordance with the IT Officer I salary scale.

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), and copies of academic qualifications.** These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to the **Employee Success Department, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.** The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 8th August 2025.** Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. **The University of the West Indies is an equal opportunity employer. The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

Police and Customs Seize Cannabis at General Post Office

A joint drug operation conducted by Police and Customs officers resulted in the seizure of a quantity of cannabis at the General Post Office.

On Monday, 7 July, a search was conducted at the main postal facility and a brown cardboard box was found to contain three (3) vacuum-sealed packages with the controlled drug cannabis.

The box and its contents



were seized and transported to Police Headquarters for

further investigation. The substance was later weighed and amounted to approximately three (3) pounds, with an estimated street value of \$18,000. Investigations into the matter are ongoing.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to working with other partner agencies to disrupt the illegal drug trade and safeguard the wellbeing of the nation's communities.

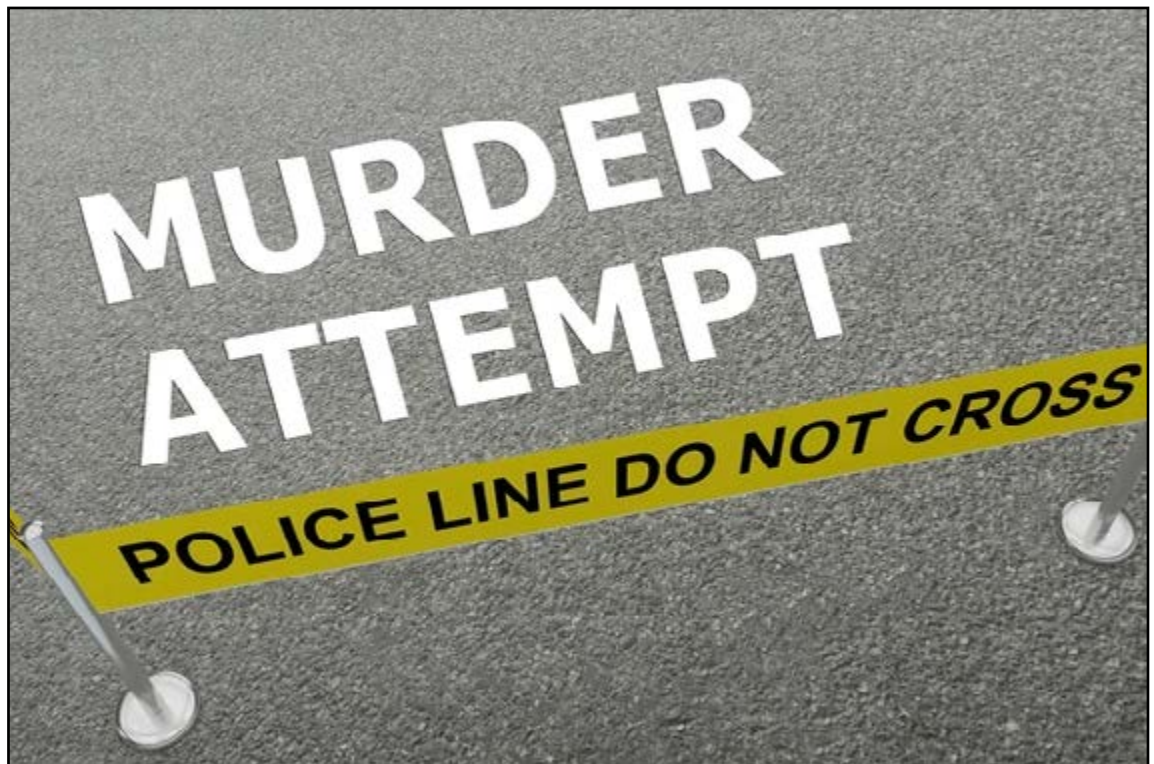
Wayne Charles remanded in prison on attempted murder charge

The preliminary hearing on an attempted murder charge against Wayne Charles of Browne's Avenue opened in the magistrate's court on Tuesday.

Charles is facing charge of attempted murder of Kadeem Spencer of Liberta. This followed an incident that happened in New Village, Liberta on July 3.

Charles is also facing a charge of malicious damage for causing damage to an I-phone 13 smart-phone that belonged to Spencer. The damage to the phone has been estimated at a cost of \$1,000.00 (US).

The case has been adjourned until October 1, 2025, and Charles has been remanded to HM Prison until the hearing resumes.





ANTIGUA

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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRE-EVENTS

**THURS
FEB 27**

CARNIVAL LAUNCH

**SUN
JULY 13**

**AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S
KIDDIES FETE**
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS
JULY 17**

**CALYPSO MONARCH
SEMI-FINALS**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**FRI
JULY 18**

**PARTY MONARCH
SEMI-FINALS**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**FRI
JULY 25**

FACE OFF
CARNIVAL CITY

**SAT
JULY 26**

LIAT 2020 T-SHIRT MAS
ST. JOHN'S

**SUN
JULY 27**

GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE
COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND
JUNIOR CARNIVAL PARADE
ST. JOHN'S/CARNIVAL CITY
FREE

**MON
JULY 28**

**OASIS WATER
JUNIOR PARTY
MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | *FREE*

**TUES
JULY 29**

**KARI SOCA
INTERNATIONAL
SOCA MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY

**WED
JULY 30**

**BURNING FLAMES
40TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS
JULY 31**

DRINK TILL YA WEAK
BOAT CRUISE
**LONG BAY LAGER
MELTING POT**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM
\$100 (GENERAL)
\$350 (HOUSE OF VIBES)

EMANCIPATION WATCH NIGHT
ARG / BOTANICAL GARDENS

**SAT
JULY 19**

WITNESS YA FITNESS
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

**SUN
JULY 20**

**ECAB MR & MISS
TEENAGE PAGEANT**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**TUES
JULY 22**

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL
CARNIVAL CITY
\$30 (STAND) | \$50 (RESERVED)

**FRI
AUG 1**

**THE UNIVERSITY
OF WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS
JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | *FREE*

**SAT
AUG 2**

EMANCIPATION DAY
CALYPSO MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$30

**SUN
AUG 3**

RISE
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS
CRICKET STADIUM

**MON
AUG 4**

CARNIVAL DREAMZ
HODGES BAY
**STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LTD
PANORAMA**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$40

**TUES
AUG 5**

D BREAKFAST FETE
SPLASH ANTIGUA
INET PARTY MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$40

J'OUVERT
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OF BANDS**
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CALYPSO MONARCH COMPETITION

FRI. AUG 1ST | 8:00PM | \$30

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The Clock is Ticking: Why Social Security Reform Can't Wait



by *Garfield Joseph*

Introduction: A Shared Challenge, A National Opportunity

Across the globe, pension systems are under mounting pressure. From prosperous economies like the United States to developing nations in the Caribbean, governments grapple with the daunting task of securing retirement income for aging populations. While issues such as underfunding, market volatility, and demographic shifts are often cited, the core problem transcends borders—it's one of governance, investment discipline, and collective responsibility.

In Antigua and Barbuda, this challenge carries added weight. Economic resilience is hard-won, and retirement security is not guaranteed. Each dollar deducted from employees' paychecks into the Social Security Scheme carries more than monetary value—it represents public trust. And in a society where that trust must be earned daily, effective management of our pension system is not just urgent—it's existential.

A National Imperative at an Inflection Point

The Social Security Scheme stands at a critical inflection point. Around the world, systems are being tested—and in some cases, failing. The U.S. Social Security Trust Fund, for example, is projected to run out of reserves by 2034, a sobering reminder that even the most established systems are vulnerable without reform.

Under the stewardship of Prime Minister Gaston Browne's administration, Antigua and Barbuda has begun a journey toward pension reform that reflects maturity, pragmatism, and national interest. This is not a partisan issue; it is a call for informed dialogue grounded in facts, where strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats must all be weighed carefully. Pension scheme management is no longer just about accounting—it is about securing the soul of our society.

Why Reinvestment Matters—And Why the Debate Must Evolve

With a population just shy of 100,000, our contributor base is limited. Sustainability hinges on more than collection—it depends on disciplined reinvestment into diversified, income-generating assets. Reinvestment is the engine that turns today's contributions into tomorrow's payouts.

The argument against investing funds for greater returns can no longer be made in good faith. What must be argued for is due diligence, risk-versus-reward analysis, and exploration of alternative options. Inaction is not prudence—it is peril.

The current administration is tak-

ing concrete steps to strengthen the Social Security Board's investment strategy, improve compliance with contribution requirements, and implement data-driven reforms. These are not symbolic gestures—they are structural shifts necessary for long-term solvency.

Five Pillars for Pension Scheme Success

To operate a thriving Social Security Pension Plan, five critical success factors must be prioritized:

- **Contribution Compliance:** Those who are required to pay must pay, especially among the informal sector. Compliance and commitment are vital to the longevity of the scheme.
- **Strategic Reinvestment:** Idle contributions erode value. Smart, diversified reinvestment builds sustainable reserves.
- **Transparent Governance:** Oversight must be rooted in accountability, with clearly defined roles and rules.
- **Actuarial Integrity:** Forecasting future obligations with precision allows promises to be kept—and kept realistically.
- **Administrative Capacity:** Digital transformation and trained personnel are necessary to improve service and reduce inefficiencies.

Meeting Local Realities Head-On

Local conditions such as tourism-driven income cycles, migration, and informal employment present real stressors on our system. The administration is responding by stabilizing public debt and grow-

ing the economy at the same time. These initiatives signal a commitment to build resilience across key sectors with a long-term perspective in mind. But this is not enough. Strong governance is also required.

The Importance of Expertise in Governance

Strong governance means more than representation—it requires competence. Civil society representation on the Social Security Board must be matched with professional standards. Legal reforms should mandate that appointees possess foundational expertise in finance, law, or economics. This is especially critical as board members face complex decisions involving actuarial forecasting and investment risk management. Persons without such knowledge, experience and capabilities should not be on the Board.

Derek M. Osborne, a Caribbean actuary who has advised Antigua and Barbuda's Social Security Board, puts it plainly:

"Board members must be equipped to understand actuarial projections, evaluate investment risks, and make decisions that protect long-term solvency."

Samantha May-Francis, of the Industrial Court, echoes this concern:

"I want to trust the Social Security Board, but I also want to know that the people managing it truly understand what's at stake. My retirement isn't a guessing game."

Progress and Promise

Recent data from the Social Security Board highlights ongoing challenges, with investment income sitting below 10% of total revenue—far short of sustainability targets. However, reforms implemented in 2024 resulted in a 15% uptick in contri-

bution compliance and improved investment performance. These early gains are encouraging, but continued vigilance is required.

A Call to Collective Ownership and a New Posture

Safeguarding pensions is a shared responsibility. Citizens must remain informed, employers must comply with regulations, and political leadership must prioritize reinvestment, professionalism, and inclusive policies. The Social Security Scheme should not be viewed as a political football—it is a living promise, built on intergenerational trust, stewardship, and accountability.

The country stands to benefit, when discussions on the way forward are

grounded in data, reality, and best practices. Let us leave politics aside and focus on the key issues that will strengthen the resilience and viability of the scheme. A change in posture—toward transparency, competence, and long-term thinking—will yield enormous benefits.

As we move forward, let the best ideas contend so the best outcomes can be achieved. That is how we must engage—responsibly, honestly, with sound arguments and conviction.

Because when we engage honestly, productively and manage wisely, we protect more than retirement, we protect the very foundation of our society.



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Your Employer Likes A Safe Bet

By V.J. Gomes

There are several types of employees, but they usually fall into two major categories, namely, those who stand out and those who fit in, otherwise known as the ‘Safe Bets.’ There is no pretty way to say this, but your employer likes, no, correction, LOVES a Safe Bet. The company’s leadership has a serious need to feel comfortable, and that happens when they surround the office with this type of employee.

Who is a Safe Bet Employee?

These people are usually emotionally neutral, predictable, consistent, and non-threatening in a corporate way. They get just enough work done. They align culturally with the company. They are unproblematic and “easy to work with.” The safe bet employee is not a disrupter but quietly discerning. These are the people that the organisation will invest in. They will inevitably grow with the companies they work for.

Don’t get me wrong, these are fine people. They are also performers who have made peace with sacrificing who they truly are in order to play the safe and strategic long game at work.

How Do You Identify A Safe Bet Employee?

How do you know who the Safe Bet employees are? Some of their key characteristics, highlighted very eloquently by Ms. Tanya Uyigue (her Instagram account is ‘@tanyaucoaching’; please follow her if you can), are as follows:

- Are you non-threatening? Do you speak up and ask the hard questions during open staff meetings? Safe Bets do not openly disclose their opinions readily, even when they disagree with whatever issue is at play. They understand that it might not serve them, or matter in the medium to long term, if

they challenge the status quo in an open forum.

- Do you have a “palatable personality”? Do you engage in small talk? Do you make decisions the way your bosses make decisions? Does your logic align with your managers’ logic? Do you influence the way they influence?

Safe Bets are structurally performative. They intentionally culturally align by mirroring management. If you are an introvert and your manager is an extrovert among a managerial board of other extroverts, you might not be regarded as a Safe Bet employee. Leadership cares about its self-preservation, and the Safe Bets who can integrate well will be welcomed above all others. They are a perfect mirror for management, promoting the existing corporate culture. This is the reality.

· Are you low maintenance? Further to the last point, Safe Bets are low maintenance. They are not divas. They do not require a lot of hand-holding and social massaging to get their work done. They do not require special accommodations, special equipment, or special anything. If there is confusion at the office, this isn’t a major challenge for them. They have the ability to move forward and get past the drama and chaos. Low maintenance employees are typically not the type to call things out. The word that can best describe them is “unproblematic.”

· Are you loyal or are you a Runner/Track Star? An added redeeming quality that employers love about these Safe Bets is that they will not (or are very unlikely to) quit their jobs. Safe Bets do not have a side hustle. If they are on social media, they are there to promote the company. They display a significant amount of adherence to the doctrine of “company above self”.

If you answered “yes” to the majority of the aforementioned questions, you might be a Safe Bet employee. If you

answered the other way, there is still hope for you, so keep reading!

So... What Now?

A 2017 Forbes magazine article discussed the dilemma employers face between hiring a Safe Bet versus a ‘potential rock star’ highlighting the tension between choosing a candidate who is a predictable fit and one who may bring transformative ideas but with less certainty. My advice for employees is to choose your battles wisely by:

1. Strategically identifying those moments when speaking up can work in your favour and push you into a role that allows you to showcase your talent. These moments might be during your one-on-one sessions with your boss.
2. In our book, *Consciously Quitting: A Guide for Navigating Your Career Transition*, co-author A. V. Andrew and I urge readers to ‘play the game.’ Perform in your work and learn how to assimilate into your role. Adapt into your job culture for as long as it serves you to. Observe who is in charge on paper and in practice; sometimes it can be two different people!
3. Mirror the Safe Bet crew by avoiding office drama, quietly but confidently getting your work done, and leading from the rear with strategy and support.

Final Thoughts...

Whether you’re a polished safe bet or a blazing rock star in the making, you are still confined within the boundaries of office culture. The key is knowing which rules to follow, which ones to finesse, and which ones to rewrite entirely.

Play smart, play strategic, and never forget that even the quietest players can still win the game.

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Regional News



'Let the CCJ be our final court' Mottley renews call for regional unity on jurisprudence

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley is urging all Caribbean nations to fully embrace the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) by making it their final appellate court, saying it is a matter of sovereignty, security, and generational transformation.

Mottley, who was speaking at the ongoing 49th Regular Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government in Montego Bay, St James, wants regional leaders and citizens to act with resolve.

"It would be remiss of me not to salute Winston Anderson, the new president of the Caribbean Court of Justice. And may I say, the president of my own final Court of Appeal in Barbados," said Mottley, in referencing her country's adoption of the CCJ in both its original and appellate jurisdictions.

Justice Anderson, a Jamaican, who hails from St Ann, holds degrees from The University of the West Indies and Cambridge University in England. He was sworn in as the fourth president of the Caribbean Court of Justice by Governor General Sir Patrick Allen at the Jewel Grande Resort in Montego Bay, St James, on Sunday.

Mottley, who once chaired the Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the CCJ, said the time for hesitation had long passed.

"You will forgive me, hav-



ing been the chair of the Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice, if I take this opportunity to once again appeal to the citizens of this region: let your governments know that there ought to be a singular purpose for the CCJ to truly become the final Court of Appeal for all CARICOM states."

Currently, only Barbados, Guyana, Belize, and Dominica have fully adopted the CCJ as their final court, while the majority of CARICOM nations still rely on the United Kingdom-based Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Mottley acknowledged that for some member states, constitutional barriers remain a hurdle, but argues that if they really want to, they should be taking meaningful steps in getting there.

"We are aware that some countries have constitutional requirements, such

as holding a referendum. But this, like everything else, ought to be the subject of public education. And if we can do so, I believe we can finally start to move the needle generationally for us, recognising that this ought to be our final appellate court," she said.

Mottley also argued that the broader realities facing small island developing states should compel deeper regional integration, not just in trade and diplomacy, but in justice and legal independence.

"Our reality as small states is not only to be taken into account when the WTO (World Trade Organisation) and the need for special and differential treatment, or international financial architecture that requires us to move away from the reality of assumption with historic per capita GDP, and not understanding the vulnerability of our countries as small states - but our small vul-

nerable states must be taken into account with respect to our Caribbean jurisprudence," she noted.

Mottley was particularly forceful when addressing the implications of delayed justice and lack of finality in the court system, especially concerning issues of crime and community safety.

"We must address matters of citizenship security, especially those involving individuals charged with serious offences who continue to walk freely in our communities and, in some cases, re-offend with impunity," she declared. "Our legal system must respond to these challenges with a strong, trusted, regional final court."

Mottley's remarks received wide applause in the plenary hall, underscoring the growing support among CARICOM leadership for regional solutions to regional problems.

While not naming specific countries, Mottley's appeal struck a chord among leaders and legal professionals attending the three-day summit. Several sources close to the Jamaican delegation noted that Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness had taken note of the address and signalled a willingness to "reopen the public conversation" around Jamaica's final appellate court. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Outrage as Windrush exhibition portraits vandalised



A special portrait exhibition which was installed in Windrush Square, Brixton, south London last month to honour members of the Windrush generation was vandalised by unknown person or persons last week. Organisers of the temporary installation have described the attack as ‘deliberate’.

The exhibition titled ‘Windrush Untold Stories’, which celebrates the legacy of the Windrush generation, and was launched at the Big Caribbean Lunch event in Brixton on Windrush Day June 22, was to be on display until July 10, but had paint daubed over

some of the faces in the display as well as deep scratches inflicted on all of the 20 photos.

Organised by Friends of the Windrush Square (FWS), the exhibition was the centrepiece of the Big Caribbean Lunch event which drew thousands on Windrush Day and was marking its third staging. Ros Griffiths, chair of the FWS, said the vandalism was an attack on the community.

She said: “This is a deeply upsetting and shocking act of racial disrespect. ‘Windrush Untold Stories’ was created to celebrate the contributions and

resilience of the Windrush generation, whose story is central to the fabric of British life. That it should be targeted in such a hateful way is a stark reminder of the ongoing challenges we face in building an inclusive and respectful society.


“The deliberate vandalism of this important cultural installation is not only an attack on public art, but a blatant act of racial hatred directed at a community that has given so much to the life and spirit of the UK.

“This wanton act has caused considerable distress to local residents, artists, volunteers and project partners – many of whom are directly connected to the Windrush legacy.”

Among those featured in the exhibition is the late Clovis Salmon, affectionately known as Sam the Wheels – a pioneering documentarian, photographer and proud member of the Windrush generation. His work chronicled decades of black British history and community life.


Griffiths said: “To see his memory and legacy targeted in such a manner is particularly painful for all who knew him and respected his lifelong contributions.”

The Met Police who are investigating the vandalism said they are keeping an open mind although it could be treated as a hate crime. A statement from The Met said officers spoke to a man but no arrest were made, and that its inquiries were continuing. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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Regional News



CARICOM Summit | Ali backs free movement progress but says some member states 'need more time'

Guyana's President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has acknowledged progress in the free movement of people within CARICOM but noted that some countries still need more time to adapt.

"Some countries will need more time to transition. We're finding the right language and framework to support that," the Guyanese president noted Monday.

He was speaking at the 49th Regular Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government under way in Montego Bay.

The free movement portfolio is led by Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley.

Alli's comments came as regional crime and security dominated discussions, with new CARICOM Chairman, Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Jamaica, identifying the fight against gang violence as a major priority during his six-month tenure.



President Ali outlined a four-pronged security strategy focused on infrastructure, legislative reform, judicial efficiency, and border protection using technology.

"We must ensure we have the right legal framework. The judicial system must work efficiently. And we

must invest in our borders and the technology to stop illegal firearms and other threats," he said.

Ali further called for stronger regional cooperation to tackle the key challenges facing the Caribbean, including climate change, crime, and economic inte-

gration.

"There are many different challenges that we as a region have to confront—climate security, food security, and national security. What we are sure of is that the only way we can get ahead of these challenges is if we work together in an integrated way," he told reporters.

On the matter of reparations for slavery, Ali urged a united stance from CARICOM members: "This is not an issue for us to have a separate position on. We must have a common agenda and a common framework."

Highlighting Guyana's role in climate action, he said, "We are the most affected by climate change, but also the region that has given the greatest leadership."

Ali added that Guyana now co-chairs the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership and is launching a Global Biodiversity Alliance. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

St Kitts records 75 per cent drop in homicides during first half of 2025

The Royal St Christopher and Nevis Police Force (RSCNPF) announced Monday that the Federation has achieved a 75 per cent reduction in homicides during the first six months of 2025 compared to the same period last year.

According to police data, four homicides were recorded between January and June 2025, down from 16 homicides during the same period in 2024.

"This is not just a number; it is a national achievement and as such, this success belongs to all of us," the RSCNPF stated in a press release.

The police force attributed the decline to increased community engagement and collaboration between residents and law enforcement. "It stands as an undeniable reflection what can be accomplished when community policing, civic duty, and shared responsibility come together in defence of peace and prosperity," officials said.

The RSCNPF reported steady increases in public engagement across all categories of criminal activity during the first half of the year, with more residents participating in community-level security efforts.

Police commended citizens who have chosen to "uphold peace, not only through words, but through daily action. Whether by mentoring a young person or resolving disputes without violence, citizens and residents have shown that true patriotism starts with protecting one another."

As the Federation moves into the second half of 2025, the RSCNPF encouraged the public to "remain vigilant and unified," stating that "peace is not the absence of danger, but the presence of accountability, empathy, and discipline." (*Loop Caribbean*)

Texas crews dig through children's clothes and toys in a desperate search for survivors

Samuel Cummings spent much of Monday wading through knee-high floodwaters, trudging across muddy fields, digging into mounds of dirt and slashing through thickets of brush with a chain saw.

But the physical demands of the search and recovery efforts near flood-battered Kerrville were nothing compared with the emotional gut punch of what Cummings saw strewn underfoot: girls' Crocs and tennis shoes, volleyballs and water bottles.

The objects are the tragic remnants of Camp Mystic, where 27 girls and counselors died in flash floods that ripped through central Texas over the weekend, leaving at least 104 people dead or missing across six counties.

"That's where you start to get choked up," said Cummings, who spoke to NBC News roughly 5 miles downstream of Camp Mystic as helicopters circled overhead.

Cummings, 22, a recent college graduate who lives in Corpus Christi, jumped in his Ford truck and headed straight for the flood-ravaged region Sunday night. He grew up in Kerrville and swam in the Guadalupe River as a kid.

He wanted to help. He felt he had no choice.

The monstrous floods abruptly tore through West Texas overnight Friday during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, inundating buildings, trapping residents in their homes and leaving a trail of death in their wake.

These Texas Hill Country communities are usually an oasis of trees and water for many who come from the congested, busier cities of Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio, as well as other parts of the country.

Now, the serenity some seek here is broken up by the buzz of chain saws and whoop-whoop-whoop of helicopter blades, including an occasional military Chinook.

Soggy tree bark, hefty branches and



whole tree trunks are smashed up against railings, homes, and whatever else stood in the water's path but didn't collapse from its force. The Guadalupe River water surrounds trees that once stood on solid ground, with many now bowed against each other like a stack of dominoes.

Local residents wear faces of shock and sadness as they take in the destruction. Landmarks like the shops in Old Ingram Loop were nearly emptied by the river, refilled with mud or splintered to pieces.

Amid the devastation, first responders and volunteers trudge into muck and mud, scramble over debris piles and check emotions to poke and prod and chop and saw in search of still-missing victims.

Brandie Masters, who lives in nearby Mountain Head with her husband, Jared, felt it was her responsibility to assist in the aftermath.

Jared spent part of Monday behind the wheel of an excavator, digging through "piles and piles and piles" of debris, Masters said. She stayed on foot, scouring the muck for any signs of life.

She hasn't yet found any bodies, but she has encountered grim reminders of the young lives lost: kayaks, sports gear, little girls' clothes.

Masters, 42, doesn't know when she and Jared will return home. They plan to "stay as long as it takes." They might sleep in their car overnight.

"A lot of men are out here working really hard to recover families," Masters said. "God is ultimately in control. Everyone just needs to pray."

Dennis Price, founder and CEO of Heroes for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that sends out veterans, first responders, medical personnel and other crews after disasters, described surreal scenes, including a dead cow stuck high in a tree.

Price also saw "60 to 80 RVs pinned up against trees," some stacked "about 20 feet high with fallen trees, other debris and just pieces of vehicles smashed up, torn up and then flipped over."

He said his volunteers in the hardest-hit areas told him Monday they found two pairs of bodies as part of their rescue and recovery efforts. One of the team members put on his amphibious gear and "went down into a river and pulled out two family members."

Two more people were found along the riverbank, he said.

"It's a massive tragedy. We feel for the families. We feel for all these people, and we keep them in our prayers. That's why we support every way we can," he said.

Mark Edwards, field operations manager for the nonprofit group Texas EquuSearch, deployed more than 120 trained volunteers on horseback, in ATVs and on foot to look for survivors and victims. The team included Robert Crow, a member of Tejas Vaqueros, a riding group from Houston.

"I have two daughters. I know what it feels like. I don't know what it feels like to lose them," Crow said as he threw blankets over his horse, Peaches.

Edwards is an experienced search-and-rescue professional whose teams coordinate with law enforcement. But disaster aftermath still takes an emotional toll, he said, even if it takes some time to absorb.

"I've learned to have a trigger switch. I'll fall apart later," Edwards said. (NBC News)

Acropolis closes as heatwave grips Greece

The Acropolis is closing temporarily on Tuesday as soaring temperatures continue to grip Greece.

The ancient citadel in the capital city of Athens - which contains many ancient Greek ruins - will shut from 13:00-17:00 local time (11:00-15:00 BST), the country's culture ministry said.

Highs of 42C (107F) are forecast for parts of the European country on Tuesday and a category four wildfire warning, signalling a very high risk, is in place in several regions.

It comes as wildfires were reported in other parts of the continent, including France and Spain's Catalonia region, weeks after they were hit by a deadly early summer heatwave.

Changes to the Acropolis' opening hours were announced on Monday after extreme heat returned to Greece on Sunday.

Its closure on Tuesday - with highs of 38C expected in the city - is not the first time extreme heat has shut the popular attraction - having done so in June and last July.

Authorities said the closure was for "the safety of workers and visitors" at the site, which is visited by tens of thousands of people every day, totalling 4.5 million in 2024.

The country's labour ministry has also imposed a mandatory five-hour work stoppage for manual, outdoor workers between 12:00-17:00 on Tuesday in the areas set to see the worst heat.

The current heatwave is due to continue into Wednesday, with a high of 41C expected and the highest category five wildfire warning - signalling a state of alert and extreme risk



- issued by the government.

This will cover four regions: Attica, central Greece, the Peloponnese, and Thessaly. A category four warning has been issued for several other parts of the country.

The heatwave will start to break on Thursday as temperatures are set to drop significantly.

The public has been urged to remain vigilant and emergency services were on high alert, the country's civil protection said.

This comes after 41 wildfires broke out across Greece on Monday, according to the country's fire service. Of those, 34 were contained early while seven remained active into Monday evening.

Elsewhere, more than 18,000 people were ordered to stay at home in Catalonia on Tuesday as a wildfire raged in the eastern province of Tarragona, the government said.

Spain's emergency military unit was deployed alongside 300 firefighters as high winds overnight fanned the flames, which have spread across nearly 3,000 hectares (7,413 acres)

of land.

Several other parts of the country - which experienced its hottest June on record - are on high alert for wildfires.

In France, Marseille Provence airport announced it was closing on Tuesday, due to a nearby wildfire that was spreading rapidly.

Meanwhile, near the southwestern town of Narbonne, more than 1,000 fire fighters tackled another wildfire. Residents evacuated their homes, and a motorway linking France and Spain was shut.

Much of western and southern Europe was hit by a scorching early summer heatwave, which saw thousands evacuated, and homes and business destroyed.

Heatwaves are becoming more common due to human-caused climate change, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

It has said hot weather will happen more often - and become even more intense - as the planet continues to warm. (BBC News)

Trump to put 25% tariffs on Japan and South Korea; new import taxes on 12 other nations



(AP) — United States President Donald Trump on Monday set a 25 per cent tax on goods imported from Japan and South Korea, as well as new tariff rates on a dozen other nations that would go into effect on August 1.

Trump provided notice by posting letters on Truth Social, his social media site, that were addressed to the leaders of the various countries. The letters warned them not to retaliate by increasing their own import taxes, or else the Trump administration would further increase tariffs.

“If for any reason you decide to raise your Tariffs, then, whatever the number you choose to raise them by, will be added onto the 25% that we charge,” Trump wrote in the letters to Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and South Korean President Lee Jae-myung.

The letters were not the final word from Trump on tariffs, so much as another episode in a global economic drama in which he has placed himself at the centre.

His moves have raised fears that economic growth would slow to a trickle, if not make the US and other nations more vulnerable to a recession. But Trump is confident that tariffs are necessary to bring back domestic manufacturing and fund the tax cuts he signed into law last Friday.

He mixed his sense of aggression with a willingness to still negotiate, signaling the likelihood that the drama and uncertainty would continue and that few things are ever final with Trump.

Imports from Myanmar and Laos would be taxed at 40%, Cambodia and Thailand at 36%, Serbia and Bangladesh at 35%, Indo-

nesia at 32%, South Africa and Bosnia and Herzegovina at 30% and Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Tunisia at 25%.

Trump placed the word “only” before revealing the rate in his letters to the foreign leaders, implying that he was being generous with his tariffs. But the letters generally followed a standard format, so much so that the one to Bosnia and Herzegovina initially addressed its woman leader, Željka Cvijanović, as “Mr. President.” Trump later posted a corrected letter.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that Trump was setting the rates himself creating “tailor-made trade plans for each and every country on this planet and that’s what this administration continues to be focused on.”

Following a now well-worn pattern, Trump plans to continue sharing the letters sent to his counterparts on social media and then mail them the documents, a stark departure from the more formal practices of all his predecessors when negotiating trade agreements.

The letters are not agreed-to settlements but Trump’s own choice on rates, a sign

that the closed-door talks with foreign delegations failed to produce satisfactory results for either side.

Wendy Cutler, vice president of the Asia Society Policy Institute who formerly worked in the office of the US Trade Representative, said the tariff hikes on Japan and South Korea were “unfortunate.”

“Both have been close partners on economic security matters and have a lot to offer the United States on priority matters like shipbuilding, semiconductors, critical minerals and energy cooperation,” Cutler said.

Trump still has outstanding differences on trade with the European Union and India, among other trading partners. Tougher talks with China are on a longer time horizon in which imports from that nation are being taxed at 55%.

The office of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a statement that the tariff rates announced by Trump mischaracterized the trade relationship with the US, but it would “continue with its diplomatic efforts towards a more balanced and mutually beneficial trade relationship with the United States” after having proposed a trade

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framework on May 20.

Trump has declared an economic emergency to unilaterally impose the taxes, suggesting they are remedies for past trade deficits even though many US consumers have come to value autos, electronics and other goods from Japan and South Korea.

The Constitution grants Congress the power to levy tariffs under normal circumstances, though tariffs can also result from executive branch investigations regarding national security risks.

Trump's ability to impose tariffs through an economic emergency is under legal challenge, with the administration appealing a May ruling by the US Court of International Trade that said the president exceeded his authority.

It's unclear what he gains strategically against China — another stated reason for the tariffs — by challenging two crucial partners in Asia, Japan and South Korea, that could counter China's economic heft.

"These tariffs may be modified, upward or downward, depending on

our relationship with your Country," Trump wrote in both letters.

Because the new tariff rates go into effect in roughly three weeks, Trump is setting up a period of possibly tempestuous talks among the U.S. and its trade partners to reach new frameworks.

"I don't see a huge escalation or a walk back — it's just more of the same," said Scott Lincicome, a vice president at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank.

Trump initially roiled the financial markets by announcing tariff rates on dozens of countries, including 24% on Japan and 25% on South Korea. In order to calm the markets, Trump unveiled a 90-day negotiating period during which goods from most countries were taxed at a baseline 10%.

So far, the rates in the letters sent by Trump either match his April 2 tariffs or are generally close to them.

The 90-day negotiating period technically ends on Wednesday, even as multiple administration officials suggested the three-week period before implementation is akin to overtime

for additional talks that could change the rates. Trump plans to sign an executive order on Monday to delay the official tariff increases until Aug. 1, Leavitt said.

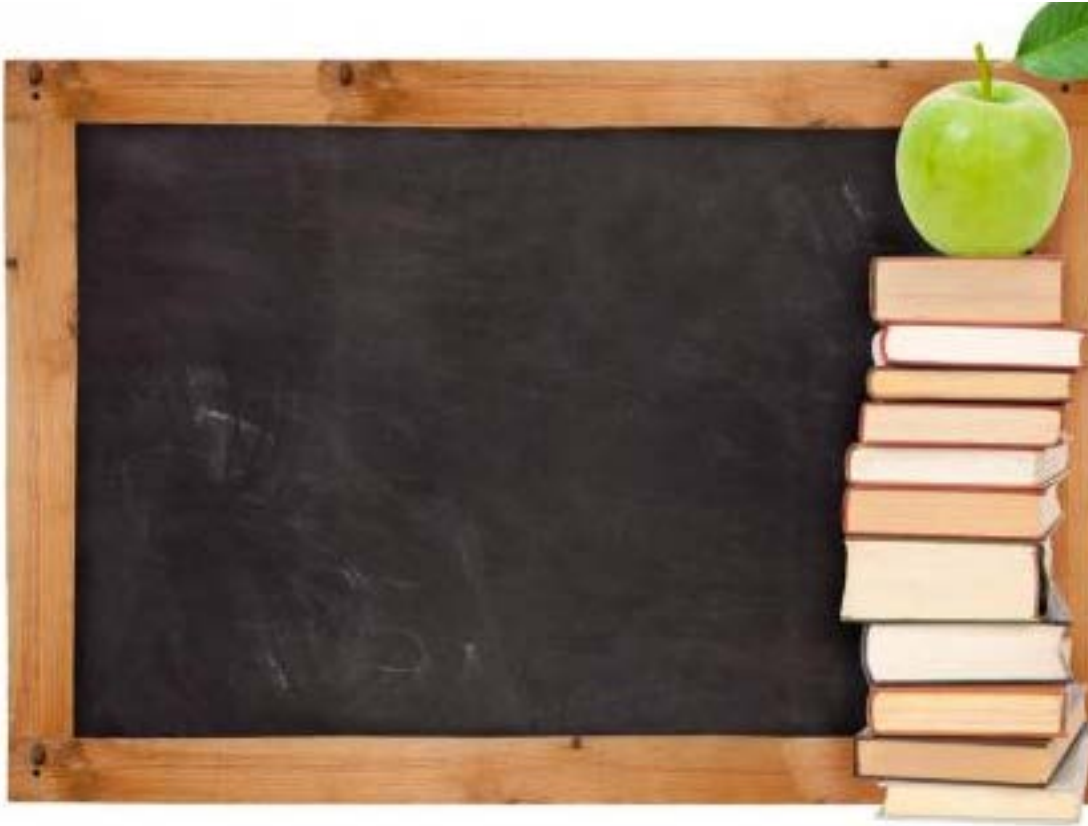
Congressionally approved Trade agreements historically have sometimes taken years to negotiate because of the complexity.

Administration officials have said Trump is relying on tariff revenues to help offset the tax cuts he signed into law on July 4, a move that could shift a greater share of the federal tax burden onto the middle class and poor as importers would likely pass along much of the cost of the tariffs. Trump has warned major retailers such as Walmart to simply "eat" the higher costs, instead of increasing prices in ways that could intensify inflation.

Trump has also said on social media that countries aligned with the policy goals of BRICS, an organization composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, would face additional tariffs of 10%.



Kindergarten in China added lead to food, over 200 children are affected



BEIJING (AP) — More than 200 kindergarten students were found to have abnormally high levels of lead in their blood after the school added paint to their food, authorities in northwest China reported Tuesday.

The case highlights long-running food safety concerns in China.

State broadcaster CCTV, citing a police official, said the school in Gansu province added the paint to try to attract more students and increase revenue.

CCTV obtained and posted online the full

text of an investigation by the province and city.

The Heshi Peixin Kindergarten in Tianshui city bought the paint online and added it while preparing the food, according to CCTV. High levels of lead were found in a three-colour breakfast cake and a sausage dish for dinner.

Of the 251 students at the kindergarten, 233 had abnormal lead levels, with 201 receiving hospital treatment, the report said.

The World Health Organization says exposure is “particularly harmful” to young chil-

dren, including in the development of the central nervous system.

“There is no level of exposure to lead that is known to be without harmful effects,” WHO says.

Dozens of students had levels above the Chinese standard for lead poisoning in children, three other media outlets reported, based on test results shared by parents. The investigation did not provide details of blood tests.

Eight people, including the headmaster, have been detained.




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Wadadli United win third ABFA's Women's Knockout Classic



Players of the Wadadli United which won the third and final ABFA's Women's Knockout Classic at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday, June 6, 2025. (ABFA Media)

Wadadli United FC claimed back-to-back titles by winning the third and final women's knockout classic competition, which is organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA), on Sunday evening.

After securing the title in the second tournament of the three-match series, Wadadli United captured back-to-back championships by snatching a 3-0 victory against Cutting Edge FC in the final at the ABFA Technical Center.

It was a repeat of last week's final after Wadadli United snatched a 1-0 victory against Cutting Edge in the final of the second women's knockout classic on Sunday, June 29.

It was also the third time Cutting Edge missed out on winning the title after losing 2-1 on penalty kicks in the final to Empire Trendsetters, who won the first women's knockout classic competitions on Sunday, June 22.

On their way to the final of the last eight-team women's competition, Wadadli United, who received a cash prize of EC\$2,500 for winning the championship, prevailed 3-0 against Lady Masters FC in the semi-finals.

Wadadli United also snatched a 1-0 victory against Cutting Edge in their opening encounter.

Lady Masters hammered the Young Warriors FC 3-0 in their opening round encounter.

Cutting Edge FC, who claimed the EC\$1,500 runners-up cash prize, booked their spot in the final by snatching a 1-0 win against Empire Trendsetters in the semi-finals.

Cutting Edge advanced to the semi-finals after being awarded victory by default against the Young Warriors, who failed to show up for their opening round encounter.

Empire Trendsetters advanced to the

semi-finals after being awarded a 3-0 victory against Lady Fort Road FC, who failed to show up for their opening-round encounter.

Like the previous contest, Wadadli FC also made a clean sweep of all the individual awards of EC\$200, which were presented to outstanding performers during the third and final knockout competition.

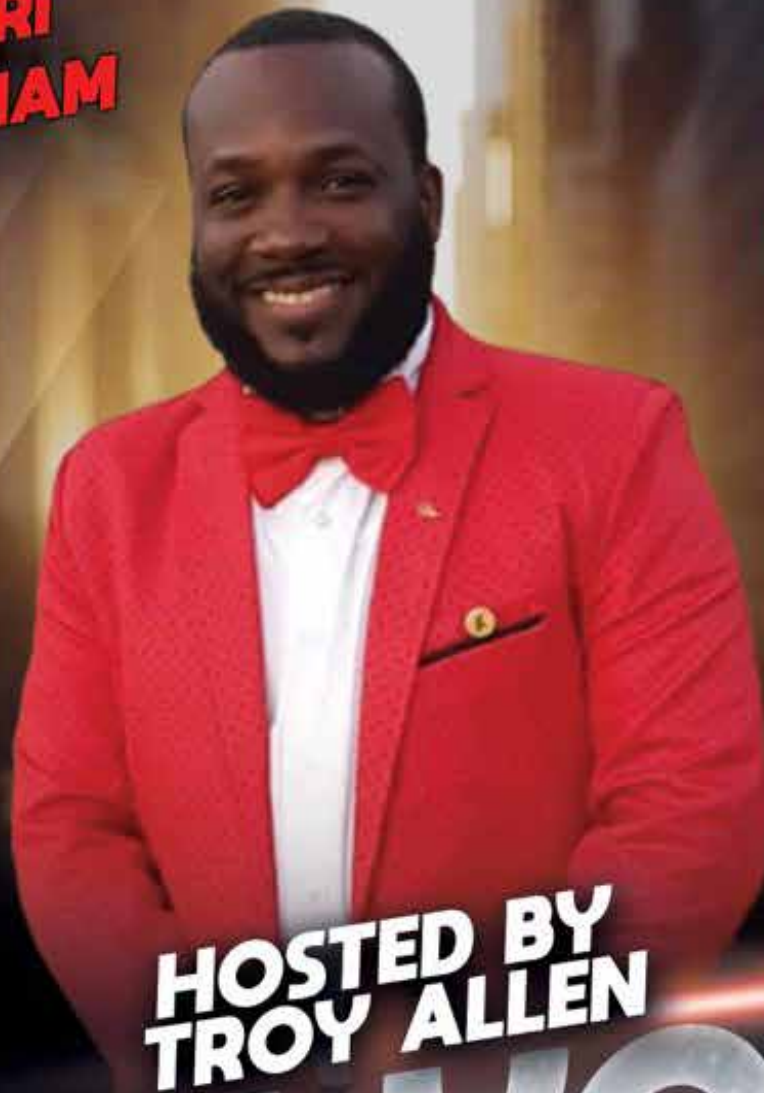
Gabriel Desouza claimed the Most Valuable Player Award. Jahnirah Hodge won the Best Defender Award, and K'Niece Browne won the Best Striker Award.

Jada Benjamin took the award for the Best Midfielder, and Arian Whyte claimed the Best Goalkeeper Award.

The ABFA staged the knockout competitions as a precursor to its national women's league, which is slated to commence in August.



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El Hombre secures semi-final berth in ASCFL



The El Hombre football team. (Photo courtesy of the ASCFL)

El Hombre snatched the second and final qualifying spot from Group A in the All Saints Community Football League on Monday evening.

El Hombre achieved the feat after being awarded victory via default against last year's winners, Old Stagers, who failed to show up for their encounter at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

The result ensures that El Hombre finished second in Group A after completing their quota of five matches in the six-team round-robin play.

With the top two teams in each zone at the end of the preliminary round-robin group stage qualifying for the semi-finals, El Hombre finished second in Group A

with 10 points.

Darg A Bark claimed the other spot in the semi-finals as Group A winners with 13 points from their five matches.

Old Stagers remain second from the bottom of Group A with two points after suffering their second loss in four matches.

Meanwhile, Ovals have kept alive their slim hopes of clinching the last semi-final spot in Group B.

Ovals moved into second place on goal difference after pulling off a 6-0 victory against Police in their final preliminary round match in Group B on Monday.

Calique Simon and Blavi-on James both scored twice for Ovals in securing their second win in four matches.

Simon had conversions in the ninth and 22nd minutes, and James scored in the 14th and 21st minutes.

The other goals for Ovals were scored by Stefan Thomas in the 15th minute and Andre Browne in the 54th minute.

The result allows Ovals to leapfrog Police into second place on goal difference. Both teams are now tied on seven points, but Police, who slipped to third place, have one Group B game remaining.

Fundamentals have already clinched a spot in the semi-finals as Group B winners with 12 points from their quota of five matches.

Fundamentals came from behind to record a 3-1 victory against Freeman's Vil-

lage in their final Group B encounter.

Roy Gregory scored in the 18th minute to give Freeman's Village the lead. Troy Jules scored the equalizer for Fundamentals with a conversion in the 23rd minute.

Fundamental took a 2-1 lead via an own goal, which was scored by Freeman's Village goalkeeper Rommel McPherson in the 28th minute. Shafeeq Joseph wrapped up the win for Fundamentals with a 35th-minute conversion.

Freeman's Village finished their campaign with six points after suffering their only loss during their quota of five matches.

Sabina Park gears up for historic pink-ball Test



Lights on at Sabina Park in Jamaica

Final preparations are in full swing at Sabina Park ahead of Jamaica's first-ever pink-ball Test match, as the Jamaica Cricket Association (JCA) races to ensure the newly installed lights meet international standards in time for the start of the match against Australia on Saturday, July 12.

Dr. Donovan Bennett, President of the JCA, confirmed that technical specialists from the supplier have been on-site since Monday morning, conducting laser tuning to address inconsistencies detected during initial tests of the lighting system.

While the venue's state-of-the-art floodlights were installed recently to accommodate day-night cricket, preliminary checks revealed areas of the outfield were overexposed, while sections — particularly in front of the Kingston Cricket Club stand — remained inadequately lit.

"These are the people who supplied the lights for us, and they're now here using laser beams to do the final tuning," Dr. Bennett told Sportsmax.TV late Monday afternoon.

"What we had in the rough tuning left some areas hyper-illuminated — much more than what we want — and other areas, especially in front of the Kingston Cricket Club stand, were not up to scratch. Now we're focusing on achieving a uniform distribution of the light," he explained.

"The discrepancies were significant, with the pitch registering 3,700 lumens — far above the 2,500 required. Adjustments are now being made to rebalance the system.

"Some of those bulbs need adjusting. And then there are bulbs that are lighting up the stands — and no light should be in the stands. So it's just a matter of refocusing the lights and we'll be good."

Work began Monday morning and was expected to continue into Tuesday night, with crews working extended hours to ensure full compliance with ICC standards.

"They'll be working until 10 p.m. tonight and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. tomorrow. By the end of that time, everything should be fine," Dr. Bennett

said.

As for the electronic scoreboard, Bennett said testing was also scheduled to begin Monday, with full activation expected by Tuesday at the latest.

"It's up, all the connections are there — it's just for them to turn it on and make sure everything is firing," he noted.

The pink-ball Test, the third and final match of the series against Australia, marks the first time such a fixture will be staged in Jamaica and is already drawing strong interest.

Dr. Bennett revealed that ticket sales have passed the 5,000 mark — an encouraging figure considering Jamaica's historically tepid turnout for red-ball cricket in recent years.

"We're seeing some positive signs. The fact that it's a pink-ball Test — the first in Jamaica — has certainly stirred interest, and the Australian team always draws a crowd," he said.

Australia, who wrapped up the series with a 133-run win in Grenada on Sunday, head into the final Test with an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Sports News



Sabalenka and Alcaraz reaches semis at Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters) - Aryna Sabalenka was dragged into a bygone era on Tuesday and tormented for almost three hours on Wimbledon's Centre Court before finally imposing her 21st-century power game to beat mesmeric Laura Siegemund for a place in the semi-finals.

The Belarusian needed all her powers of ball bludgeoning and belief to emerge from a befuddling battle, somehow the victor, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Carlos Alcaraz had warned that facing Cameron Norrie could be a nightmare. For a fleeting moment on Tuesday, it looked like the defending Wimbledon champion might be in for a fright.

The Spaniard stumbled early, trailing 0-40 in his opening service game on Centre Court. Any chance of an upset, however, was swiftly dashed as Alcaraz roared to a commanding 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 quarter-final victory -- one that should send a shudder down the spine of anyone hoping to dethrone him.

For much of the spell-binding contest

it looked as though the world number one would find no answers plays American 13th seed Amanda Anisimova, who beat Anastasia



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz serves Britain's Cameron Norrie during a quarterfinal men's singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Tuesday, July 8, 2025. (AP)

to Siegemund's sorcery as the 37-year-old German veteran chipped, chopped and drop-shotted the world's best player to pieces, leaving the top seed's power game neutered on the turf.

Ranked a lowly 104 in the world, Siegemund drew on the game of a gentler age to bring low the mighty Belarusian, casting spells of slice and sleight with vintage flair.

But slowly, if not exactly surely, the 10 years younger and seemingly stronger Sabalenka managed to wrestle back the upper hand, and now

Pavlyuchenkova, for a place in Saturday's final.

"I need some time to recover ... She pushed me so much and honestly after the first set I was just like looking at my box thinking like, 'Guys I mean like book the tickets you know, I think we're about to leave this beautiful city, country, place.'"

With hundreds of empty seats at the start -- fans still trickling back after Aryna Sabalenka's drawn-out quarter-final -- Alcaraz wasted no time asserting his dominance.

By the time the crowd

returned to rally behind Britain's last remaining singles hope, the second seed had blazed through the first set in 28 minutes, dazzling with his trademark blend of power and flair.

Norrie, unseeded and unorthodox, did his best to resist. He even raised his arms in mock celebration after holding serve late in the third set.

But the outcome was never in doubt. Alcaraz, now on a 23-match winning streak, was simply too good.

Alcaraz's eighth Grand Slam semi-final will be against American Taylor Fritz but before he continues his quest for a third successive Wimbledon title he has two days off owing to the All England Club schedule.

He would probably prefer to get straight back on court, such is the momentum he is building. When asked how he would use the time, one wag in the crowd suggested he could return to the Ibiza, the Balearic party island where he let his hair down after his second successive French Open title last month.

VACANCY

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated and creative Public Relations Coordinator to support and manage key public relations and public education initiatives. This role is essential to strengthening APUA's brand presence and fostering meaningful connections with the public, media, and key stakeholders.

Key duties include:

- Develop and execute strategic public relations campaigns that align with APUA's goals
- Serve as a key contact for media, partners, and stakeholders, managing communications across multiple platforms
- Monitor media coverage and assess the impact of PR initiatives
- Craft and refine compelling content across formats, including articles, reports, and promotional materials
- Oversee the production of brochures, leaflets, videos, photography, and other multimedia assets
- Plan and coordinate events such as press conferences, exhibitions, and community outreach activities
- Manage APUA's website updates and support digital engagement efforts
- Conduct research to guide public relations and education strategies
- Strengthen community relations through public engagement and participation in local initiatives
- Provide communications support during crisis situations while upholding and enhancing the Authority's reputation

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Communications, Marketing or a related field.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in public relations, communications, or related area.
- Exceptional interpersonal and human relations skills with the ability to build and maintain relationships.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with proven editing and content creation abilities.
- Excellent organizational, time-management, and multitasking skills; adept at working under pressure.
- Creative mindset with a strong sense of initiative and imagination.
- Business acumen and awareness of current affairs affecting the organization.
- Positive, proactive attitude with a vibrant, hardworking, and detail-oriented approach.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and adapt to a dynamic environment.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE SALES)

We are seeking a dynamic, results-driven professional with strong business acumen and a passion for strategic client engagement. This role is ideal for a self-motivated individual who thrives on building meaningful partnerships and driving growth in a competitive environment.

Key duties include:

- Secure and grow a strong portfolio of corporate clients across various sectors
- Develop and implement strategic sales plans to achieve and exceed targets
- Build and maintain trusted relationships with key decision-makers and stakeholders
- Identify and capitalize on new business opportunities
- Deliver customised solutions that align with client needs
- Prepare accurate sales forecasts and performance reports
- Use a variety of sales methods including cold calling, networking, and referrals

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Proven track record in B2B sales, preferably in telecommunications or a related sector
- Excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and presentation skills
- Strong understanding of sales pipelines, client relationship management, and sales software
- Highly self-driven with the ability to work independently and consistently deliver results
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Must own a reliable vehicle and hold a valid driver's license
- Familiarity with APUA Telecommunications products and services is an asset

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Wednesday 16th July, 2025

**** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged ****
"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Rain affects start of CWI Under-19 Women's Championship

Rain affected Tuesday's start of the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship, which is taking place in Trinidad and Tobago from July 8 to 19.

The rainy weather conditions affected all three opening-round matches in the highly anticipated tournament that is featuring the region's most promising young female cricketers, representing Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, the Windward Islands, last year's runners-up, Leeward Islands, and the defending champions Guyana.

The match between the Leeward Islands and Trinidad and Tobago was abandoned as a no result at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine.

The Leeward Islands were 120 without loss in 20.3 overs after being sent in to bat when rain forced the match to be abandoned. Opener Sainavi Kambalapalli hit 62 not out off 59 balls, including seven fours.

Fellow opener Kayzg Boyles retired hurt on 29 off 49 balls, and captain Jahzara Claxton hit 19 not out off 16 balls.

The opening encounter between the Windward Islands and Barbados at the National Center in Couva was also abandoned as a no result without a ball being bowled.

But Jamaica pulled off a six-wicket win via the Duck-



Players of the Leeward Islands Under-19 women's cricket team. (CWI Media)

worth/Lewis Stern (DLS) method against defending champs Guyana in their rain-affected opening match at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex.

Guyana made 27 for three off 10 overs after being sent in to bat. Set a revised target due to rain, Jamaica achieved victory by scoring 34 for four with 17 balls to spare.

This is the fifth year under the name "CWI Rising Stars Championship." The regional competition began in 2009 as an invitational tournament organized by the Trinidad and Tobago Women's Cricket Association (TTWCA).

In 2019, CWI's Board of Directors committed to fully fund the tournament following the hosting of the 2018 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in the Caribbean.

It now forms part of the annual CWI Rising Stars age-group regional tournament

fixture, managed jointly by CWI and the TTWCA, playing a pivotal role in CWI's long-term player development pathway, and the organization's broader strategy to grow the female game across the region, while serving as a key talent identification platform for future West Indies international players.

As part of the tournament, a special player development session will be held on July 9 (today), designed to equip the young athletes with essential tools both on and off the field.

This interactive session will focus on key areas such as sports psychology, nutrition and physical wellness, personal branding and social media awareness, and children's rights and protection.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Bascombe, emphasized the importance of the championship in the growth of the women's game.

"The Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship is about more than just cricket, it's about empowering young women, building their confidence, and preparing them for success on and off the field," he said.

"We are proud to see this tournament continue to grow and play such a critical role in our commitment to the development of female cricket across the region."

The tournament will see intense competition and a showcase of future stars, as each team vies for regional bragging rights. At the same time, the developmental components reinforce CWI's mission to holistically support young women athletes through education, awareness, and skill-building.

"This championship gives our girls a platform to shine and also prepares them for the responsibilities that come with being professional athletes and role models," Bascombe added.

"We want to ensure that when they wear the maroon, they are not only talented cricketers but also well-rounded young women."

Matches will be played at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine; the Diego Martin Sporting Complex; as well as the National Cricket Centre, which is located in Couva.