

Ge'Eve Wins Leeward Islands Calypso Monarch

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An official welcome party headed by Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, and included cultural performers from the Department of Culture was on hand at the VC Bird International Airport on Sunday to welcome Ge'Eve (yellow outfit) following her triumph at the Leeward Islands Calypso Monarch competition

Local News

Ge'Eve Wins Leeward Islands Calypso Monarch: A Historic Victory for Antigua and Barbuda



An official welcome party headed by Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, and included cultur-



al performers from the Department of Culture was on hand at the VC Bird International Airport on Sun-

day to give a warm welcome home to the history-making Calypso Monarch, *Ge'Eve*, who won the coveted



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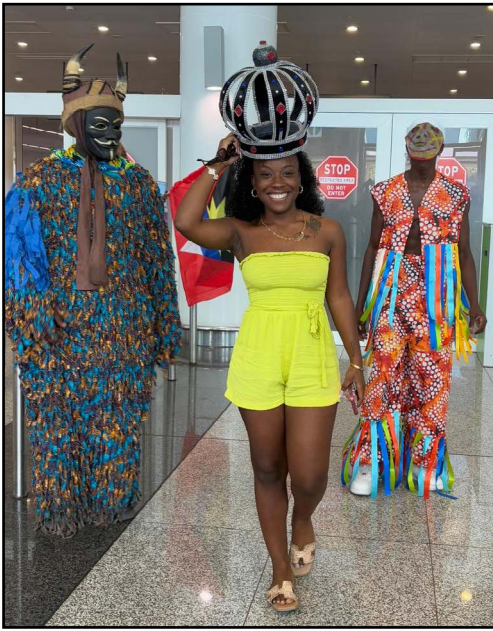


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- Kaution Band Int. with other local Entertainers
- Bounce Castles with K & E Kids Corner

- IICA Agroprocessor Competition
- Local Agroprocessor Hotsauce Competition
- Hotwings Eating Contest (OPEN TO EVERYONE)
- Mix to Win Juice Making Contest (OPEN TO EVERYONE)
- Mango & Pineapple Eating Competition





Leeward Islands Calypso Monarch competition in Anguilla on Saturday night.

It was a proud moment as Antigua and Barbuda proudly welcomed home the newest member of royalty in the nation's musical fraternity — **Ge'Eve**, the youngest person ever to win the Leeward Islands Calypso Monarch Competition. The celebration was filled with admiration, gratitude, and hope for an even brighter future for the young artist who has captivated not only her homeland but the entire musical scene of the Leeward Islands.

"I want to use this opportunity to

welcome home **Ge'Eve** following her remarkable achievement and I want to congratulate you personally but also on behalf of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. We have watched you grow up on the stage from 'Baby Eve' to now **Ge'Eve**, Leeward Islands Calypso Monarch and I can tell you we are extremely proud of you and all that you have achieved over the past few years. We have seen you grow from strength to strength, we have seen you experience disappointment but one of the things that has always stood out is that you are resilient. You continue to go forward, you

continue to fight, you never give up and here you are sitting at the 'top of the hill'...the 'top of the mountain'," the Minister remarked.

In her response, **Ge'Eve** expressed both joy and a deep sense of purpose.

"The greatest part of this achievement is the simple fact that I am a woman. Women do not really get the honours and respect they should in this industry, and I'm happy that I can be one of the voices representing women."

She also acknowledged her extensive support network, including:

- Victor Samwell — production coordinator
- Andrew Dorsett — music production
- Christopher Grant — songwriter
- The Festivals Calypso Subcommittee — who traveled to Anguilla to support her
- Her parents, fans, and the wider community
- Behind the Scenes: Teamwork and Dedication

Sub-Committee Chair, Peter Abraham, praised the collaborative efforts that contributed to **Ge'Eve's** victory. He highlighted the significant role of the government, the festival office, and committed individuals such as Permanent Secretary Sharon Stevens and her team.

"There are a few people in Antigua I will go to battle with — and she (**Ge'Eve**) is one. On stage, she's a totally different person. The sky is the limit for you, young lady. You have earned my respect."

He emphasized that this victory belongs to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, underscoring the need to continue guiding and supporting **Ge'Eve** as she advances her career.

Local News

From Junior Star to Double Monarch: The Remarkable Journey of Antigua's Calypso Champion



Early Beginnings in Calypso

The journey of Antigua's reigning Calypso Monarch, *Ge'Eve* began in 2013 when the young artist first stepped onto the stage as part of the Junior Calypso competition. Performing the memorable song *Say A Prayer*, which featured the well-known "Mommy, Mommy" refrain, the talented newcomer captured her first crown that year, setting

the stage for a promising career in the art form.

A Winning Streak in Junior Competitions

From 2013 through 2019, *Ge'Eve*'s dominance in the junior category was undeniable. Over that period, the artist secured an impressive 11 crowns, cementing her reputation as one of the brightest talents in the calypso arena.

Transition to Senior Monarch

The artist made the leap to the Senior



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Calypso Monarch competition in 2022 with the song *Small But Me Tallawa*, capturing first runner-up on her very

first try. In the following year, they competed but did not place—an experience that only fueled her determination. Returning to the stage, she once again claimed first runner-up, proving her consistency and artistry.

In 2025, the performer reached a new milestone - 'securing not just one crown, but two' - adding another chapter to an already remarkable career.

What's Next? Carifesta and International Representation

Looking ahead, the champion's calendar is packed. The next stop is Carifesta, the Caribbean's premier cul-

tural and artistic expression slated for Barbados from August 22 to 31 where *Ge'Eve* will proudly represent Antigua and Barbuda on the regional stage. Immediately afterward, she will travel to New York to participate in the Labor Day celebrations, including the highly anticipated Antigua Day event.

Celebrating a First

As the interview concluded, it was noted that this achievement may mark the first time such a feat has been accomplished in recent local calypso history—solidifying the artist's place among Antigua's cultural icons.



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See you in 2026

Ag Police Commissioner: No major disruptions to Carnival 2025

With the exception of a few minor incidents, the festivities proceeded without any major disruptions. This positive result was made possible through the collective efforts of the public, law enforcement, partner agencies, and event organizers, all working together to ensure a secure and enjoyable celebration.

The Police Administration extends sincere appreciation to members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua, Brigadier General Telbert Benjamin, and the dedicated men and women of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force for their unwavering support throughout the season.

The Administration also wishes to acknowledge the support from the Prime Minister, Hon. Gaston Browne, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, Hon. Daryll Matthew, the Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation, the Festival Commission, and the entire media fraternity for their invaluable roles in ensuring the smooth flow of information, effective coordination, and the overall success of the season.



Acting Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers

Acting Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers stated: "This year's Carnival once again highlighted the best of our culture, the unity of our people, and the strength of our community partnerships. We are grateful to every citizen, visitor, and stakeholder who demonstrated responsibility and respect for the law, and who heeded the safety guidelines and advisories issued ahead of the festivities. Your cooper-

ation was vital to this successful outcome."

The Royal Police Force remains committed to working closely with the public and all partners to build on this achievement and to ensure that future national celebrations are equally safe, well-organized, and enjoyable for all.

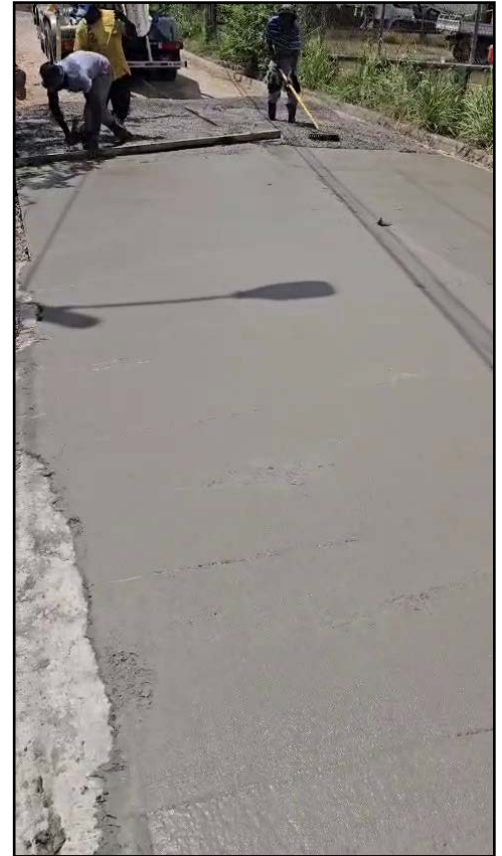


DAILY PROGRAMMING




EARLY VIBRATIONS	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA	
THE RUSH HOUR SHOW	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	6AM-9AM SATURDAYS
TOUCHLINE	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
BAD COMPANY	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
JAH WADADLI	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	

Ministry of Works teams working ‘around the clock’ on several projects and roadways



Several teams from the Ministry of Works are working around the clock night and day to complete a number of government priority projects as well as several of Antigua’s roadways.

Over the weekend, the teams have been busily repairing roadways across Antigua as well as to work on at least one major project for government, the establishment of a Renal Centre on what was the former Holberton Hospital.

In a social media post, the Ministry announced that work continued over the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) at the Old Holberton Hospital site as its

workmen engaged in the build-out of Antigua and Barbuda’s new state-of-the-art Renal Centre.

It said this transformative facility, partly funded by CDB and valued at \$21 million (inclusive of the cost of acquiring top class equipment), will provide world-class kidney care services right here at home. “The centre will feature modern dialysis machines and advanced treatment capabilities, significantly expanding access to specialized care for our residents and patients across the region,” the post stated.

Accordingly, it noted that key Benefits

will include:

- ❑ Reduces pressure on Mount St. John’s Medical Centre
- ❑ Addresses growing demand for dialysis treatment
- ❑ Eliminates need for patients to seek treatment abroad
- ❑ Part of our broader national healthcare expansion including a new Cardiac Unit

“Under the visionary leadership of Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph and with the commitment of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister of Housing and Works, Hon Maria Browne, we’re playing our part in delivering world-class healthcare right here in Antigua and Barbuda,” the social media post continued.

Meanwhile, the ministry is also reporting that there was no left-up in the current work on road repairs/con-



struction that is taking place in several communities. It disclosed that on Sunday, work continued in Follies with the construction of more resilient concrete roads, delivering on its commitment to island-wide road infrastructure upgrades.

Other areas of focus included upgrades to Burma Road and Cooks Landfill Road which continued on Sunday. “Day and night, weekdays and weekends, we are working tirelessly to transform our road infrastructure and improve your commuting experience,” the ministry indicated.

The weekend work continued in Lightfoot on Sunday building resilient concrete roads as well as the Bolans Playfield.



Transforming Lives in The Point: Booby Alley Housing Project Set for Completion in 2026



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

A Landmark Development for Antigua and Barbuda

A transformative housing initiative in Point is poised to be completed by the first quarter of 2026, marking one of the most significant social development projects in Antigua and Barbuda's recent history.

According to project updates provided by Member of Parliament for the area and Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, the development is not only altering the physical landscape but is also reshaping the lives of hundreds of residents.

"As part of the project's first phase, approximately 230 small wooden homes—many in poor condition—have been demolished. In their place, are modern, climate-resilient two-bedroom condominium units currently being constructed. These units, which would typically retail for up to EC\$500,000.00, represent a dramatic improvement in living standards for the beneficiaries," PM Browne explained.

He added that the initiative specifically targets some of the most vulnerable members of the community, including 'indigent and



low-income families', ensuring they are moved into high-quality, sustainable housing that meets modern standards.

The head of government was full of praise for the generosity of the government and people of the People's Republic of China who have made this project possible through a grant to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"The success of this large-scale project is attributed in part to the support and funding from the People's Republic of China (PRC)," noted the Prime Minister as he expressed deep gratitude to the PRC, noting that such a monumental transformation could not have been achieved without their partnership.

"This project stands as a testament to the benevolence of the PRC and the value of our relationship," he stated, emphasizing the enduring ties between Antigua and Barbuda and China, which have been built and maintained over decades.

Direct Impact on the St. John's

City West Constituency

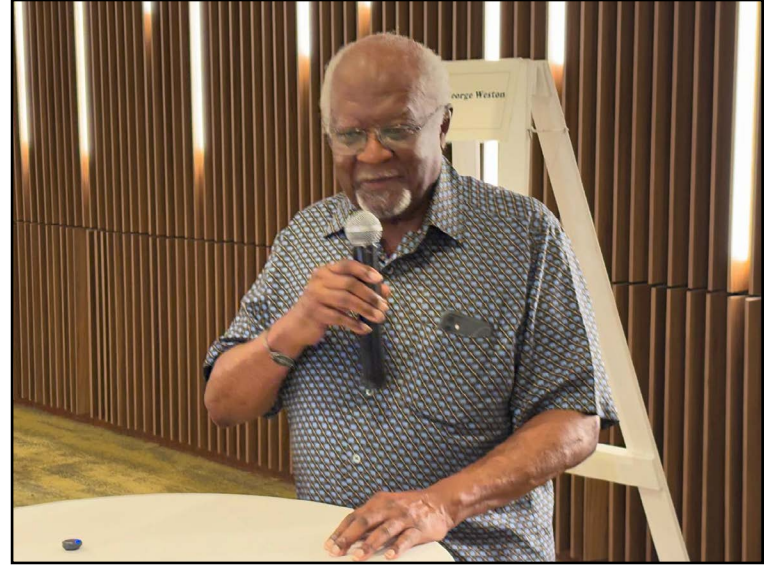
The project is being carried out in the Prime Minister's own constituency, 'The Point', making the development particularly significant for him and his constituents. He extended heartfelt thanks on behalf of the residents who will directly benefit from these new homes.

"This is a relationship we must continue to nurture and protect in the interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda," he stressed, underscoring the importance of sustaining international partnerships that yield tangible benefits for citizens.

A Vision for Social Transformation

The project is more than just a housing upgrade—it is a 'symbol of social transformation', providing dignity, security, and opportunity to those who need it most. As completion approaches in early 2026, the development is set to become a model for future housing initiatives in the nation.

Keeping Marcus Garvey's legacy alive: A call to action



August 17, this year marks the 138th anniversary of the birth of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, and his son, Dr. Julius Garvey has underscored the importance of keeping alive Garvey's legacy of solidarity of all Africans on the continent and in the diaspora and the celebration of their triumphs and achievements.

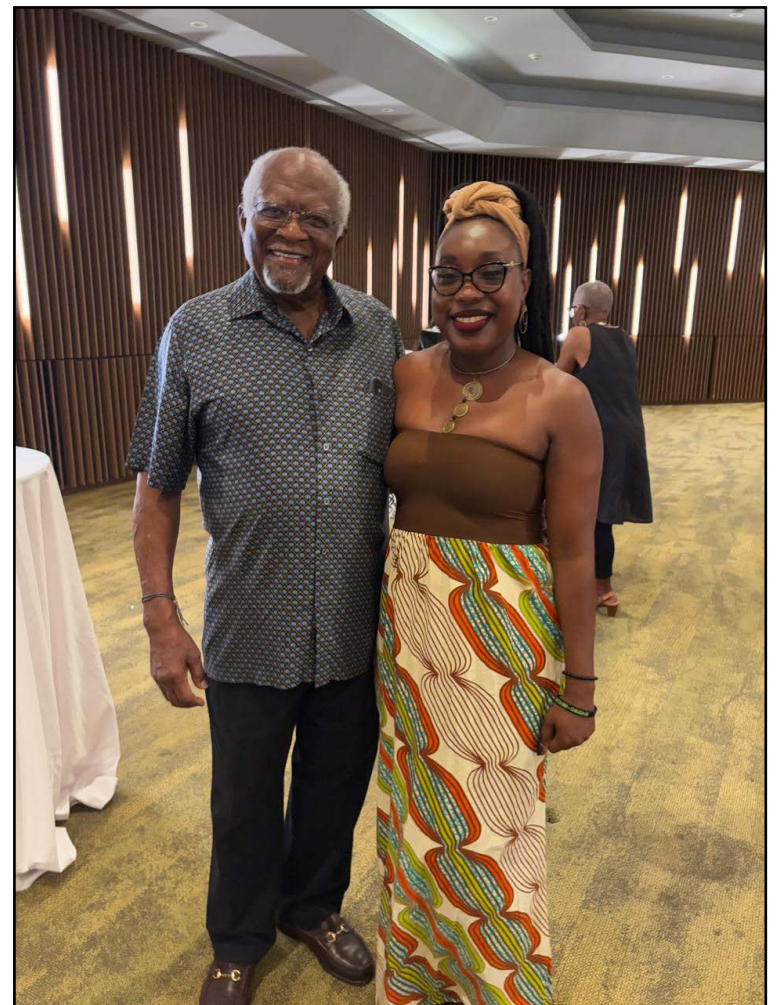
Dr. Garvey, was in Antigua and Barbuda earlier this month to participate in the activities marking Watch-night from July 31 to August 1st to commemorate the end of slavery in the British West Indies.

During his visit, he paid courtesy calls on the Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Dr. Clarence Pilgrim as well as visited the campus of the University of the West Indies, FIC.

At a reception held in his honour hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission, Dr. Garvey, who was just 7 years old when his father died in 1940, referenced the decades-long fight to exonerate Marcus Garvey, one of the most influential leaders in the global movement for African unity and empowerment, reached a historic milestone in January 2025.

Speaking at the commemorative gathering, Dr. Garvey recalled that the journey began with formal appeals to the United States Congress in Washington, D.C.

Key figures such as former Congressman the late Charlie Rangel, representatives from Detroit, and numerous other members of Congress joined the cause over the years. The movement persisted through decades of advocacy, petitions, and awareness campaigns. Finally, President Joe Biden granted a posthumous pardon to Garvey—an act that

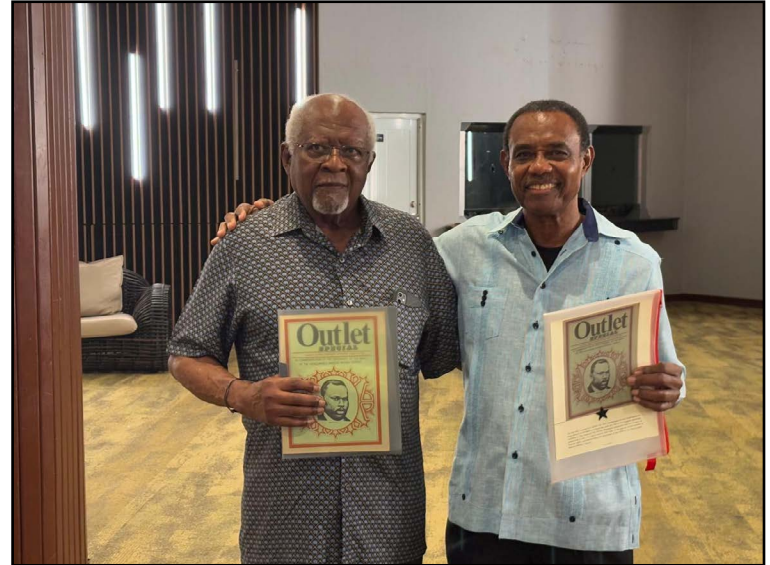


many saw as a significant step toward correcting a long-standing injustice.

Dr. Garvey highlighted

1987 as a pivotal moment in the push for what he called "reparative justice" for Marcus Garvey—justice that not only sought to

Local News



restore his name but also to revive and spread his message. Since then, advocates have worked tirelessly to ensure Garvey's story is told from an authentic African perspective.

He reported that during his discussion at the University of the West Indies' Five Islands Campus, the importance of history emerged as a central theme. He expressed concern that many young people today show little interest in history, with classrooms often half-empty. He stressed, "history is the telling of our story, as without knowledge of our past, we cannot truly understand who we are, where we are going, or how to navigate the path ahead."

The event, rich with memorabilia and symbolic significance, served as a reminder that Marcus Garvey was foundational to the development of African people and the renaissance of African civilization. The Exoneration Committee, alongside other advocacy organizations, continues to advance this mission.

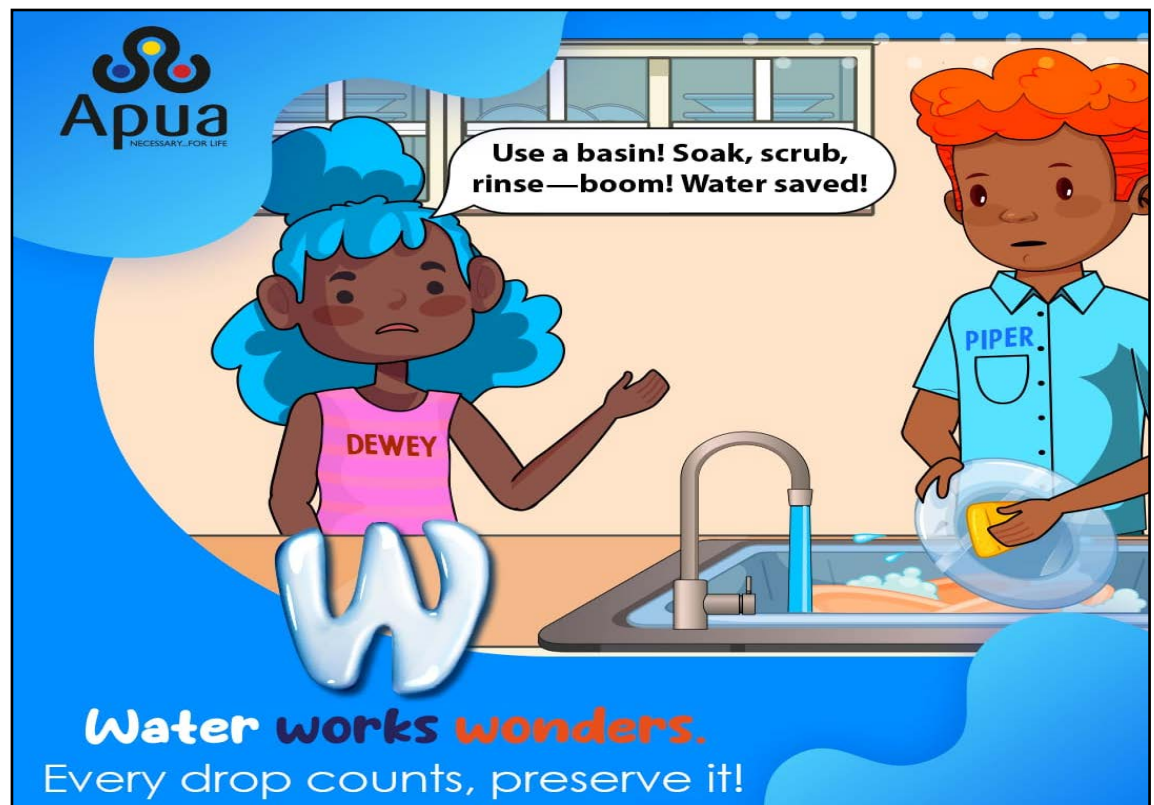
Dr. Garvey noted that as "the original people," Africans carry within them the essence of human DNA—what he called "African humanism"—a force that has endured throughout history. He emphasized that no external force, not even artificial intelligence, can diminish this innate human intelligence, which is deeply connected to the eternal nature of the universe.

Drawing on themes of resilience, Dr. Garvey affirmed that African people will triumph over adversity. "We are in the homestretch," he declared, expressing optimism that the fight for justice and recognition is nearing a decisive and victorious conclusion.

In closing, he extended gratitude to the audience for their presence, the shared occasion, and the collec-

tive commitment to keeping Marcus Garvey's legacy alive.

During the reception, members of the Tim Hector Memorial Committee presented Dr. Garvey with a special copy of an edition of the Outlet newspaper, that focused on Marcus Garvey and his monumental contributions to black consciousness throughout the Americas.



CBI/CIP Countries on Cusp of Passing New Law for Establishment of Regional Regulator

Caribbean Countries Establish Interim Regulatory Commission for Citizenship by Investment Programmes



After months of extensive consultations, the countries in the Eastern Caribbean that offer Citizenship By Investment Programmes (CBI/CIP) are on the cusp of enacting legislation to establish a regional regulator. This new law will be enacted in September 2025 by all five member countries.

The enactment of this law will culminate an intense and historic period of engagement and cooperation on these Programmes, which are so vital to the fiscal, financial stability and resilience of these member countries.

Some engagement milestones include:

1. Inaugural US-Caribbean Roundtable that resulted in the signing of an agreement on six principles between the USA and the five CBI/CIP countries in February 2023 in St. Kitts and Nevis.
2. Roundtable with the USA and the five CBI/CIP countries in October 2023 (USA).
3. The signing of a Memorandum of Agreement among the CBI/CIP Heads

in March 2024 and June 2024.

4. Meeting with EU officials in January 2024 (Dominica).
5. The introduction of a minimum price of US\$200,000 for all CBI/CIP Programmes from July 2024.
6. Roundtable with the USA, UK and EU in August 2024 (Grenada).
7. Roundtable with the UK, USA and EU in January 2025 (London, UK).
8. Broad-based and extensive stakeholder consultations on the establishment of a regional CBI/CIP regulator between March and July 2025.
9. Engagement with the USA and UK in April 2025 (Antigua and Barbuda).
10. Feedback on the draft legislation from the USA and the UK in July 2025.

Throughout these engagements and dialogue, all partners have recognised that CBI/CIP Programmes provide a legitimate service and have assisted in the survival of our member countries by providing revenues that are invaluable for funding major infrastruc-

al and development projects, and for building resilience.

The economic importance of these Programmes cannot be overstated, particularly considering the existential threat to these vulnerable small island states - emanating from the climate emergency - and the onslaught of recent adverse external shocks such as the pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

It has been accepted that dismantling these Programmes would severely compromise the prospects and prosperity of these countries, triggering a plethora of negative social consequences.

The CBI/CIP countries have strongly affirmed their commitment to a collective fight to safeguard their respective financial systems against threats from illicit finance flows from money laundering, fraud, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

Some of the key provisions of the enabling legislation for the CBI/CIP regulator include:

- 1. Establishment and funding of the regional CBI/CIP regulator.** The key objectives of the regulator are to help enhance the transparency, security and sustainability of these vital Programmes. The regulator will issue binding standards on all CBI/CIP Units (CIUs) and all licensees involved with these Programmes.
- 2. Strong enforcement mechanisms for compliance.** The regulator will be empowered in law to hold CIUs and licensees to account and will publish annual reports on compliance.
- 3. Collection of biometrics for all new applicants.** Biometrics will be collected at the time of the interview, which is part of the application

process. This provision is intended to enhance the security of these Programmes by further strengthening the vetting process of all applications.

4. Residency requirement for all approved applicants. This provision will strengthen the link between new citizens and their countries of citizenship and will allow for verification of biometrics collected during the application process. Moreover, it will generate a direct boost to tourism in our countries and will create other economic opportunities for our member countries.

5. Financial support for CARICOM IMPACS/JRCC. This will strengthen the Joint Regional Communications

Centre's (JRCC's) capacity (personnel and technology) to continue to provide vetting of all applicants via a central portal. The JRCC plays a central role in the vetting process for all applicants under the CBI/CPI Programmes. No applicant is approved without clearance from the JRCC.

The work leading to the crafting of this new law has been led by an Interim Regulatory Commission (IRC) with membership from all five CBI/CIP countries, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, CARICOM IMPACS/JRCC and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB). Ms. Lydia Elliott serves as the Legal Drafting Consultant. The work of the IRC has been overseen by

the five Heads of Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis and Saint Lucia.

The CBI/CIP countries wish to express gratitude to international partners, especially the United States of America and the United Kingdom, for their helpful feedback on the draft legislation, which was shared with them in early July 2025.

The CBI/CIP countries also express appreciation for the very useful comments received from other stakeholders, including Attorneys General and Chief Parliamentary Counsel, CIUs, industry participants (local and external) and other local stakeholders.

Ministry Condemns Break-In and Theft at Tranquility Park Cemetery

The Ministry of Health expresses deep disappointment and concern following a recent break-in and theft at the newly dedicated Tranquility Park Cemetery.

In a statement, the Ministry said it is disheartened that such an act has occurred at a site intended to provide a peaceful, dignified final resting place for loved ones.

“That individuals would deliberately violate the sanctity of this space by stealing from it and causing such extensive destruction is both disrespectful and deeply troubling. The perpetrators ripped out the air conditioning unit, broke the entrance, removed the water cooler, and inflicted severe damage to the telecommunication infrastructure, electrical wiring, and other essential systems,” according to the statement.



It said an active police investigation is currently underway, and the Ministry is urging members of the public who may have any information to come forward and

assist law enforcement in bringing those responsible to justice.

Tranquility Park Cemetery was established to serve the people of Antigua and Bar-

buda with dignity, respect, and care. The Ministry remains committed to protecting this sacred space and maintaining its integrity for all families and future generations.

Shining Light Daycare and Preschool To Host Annual Teachers Professional Conference



Shining Light Daycare and Preschool will host its highly anticipated Annual Teachers Professional Conference, taking place on Wednesday, August 14th, and Thursday, August 15th, 2025, at People's Place, Nugent Avenue. This year's theme, *"Refreshing, Reclaiming, Recharging, and Renewing,"* sets the tone for two days of professional growth, inspiration, and collaboration among educators.

The conference will bring together local and regional education professionals for a dynamic program designed to empower teachers with fresh perspectives, innovative strategies, and renewed motivation for the upcoming academic year.

Key Highlights Include:

- Keynote Address by Dr. Andrew Campbell (Dr. ABC) – Renowned education expert, Dr. Campbell, will share thought-provoking insights on the latest trends and best practices in teaching, challenging educators to think creatively and strive for excellence.
- Regional Expertise – Special guest facilitators from St. Kitts and St. Vincent will share their expertise alongside experienced local educators, ensuring diverse perspectives and practical approaches.
- Interactive Workshops – Covering topics such as technology integration, classroom management, and student engagement, these sessions will equip teachers with actionable tools to enhance learning outcomes.

- Networking Opportunities – Participants will have dedicated time to connect with fellow educators, exchange ideas, and build professional relationships that foster ongoing support and collaboration.

Empowering Educators to Thrive
The conference theme reflects the importance of self-care, innovation, and community in the teaching profession. Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Recharge – Reflect on their teaching practices, reignite their passion for education, and return to the classroom with renewed energy.

- Refresh – Stay informed on evolving educational trends, tools, and

methodologies.

- Reclaim – Strengthen connections with peers and cultivate a sense of shared purpose in shaping the future of education.

"Teachers are the backbone of our education system," says Anesta Ambrose-Walker, Owner/Director of Shining Light Daycare and Preschool. "This conference is about equipping them with the skills, support, and inspiration they need to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of their students."

Educators, administrators, and education advocates are encouraged to mark their calendars and join this transformative event.


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SAVE THE DATES



JULIANNA POWELL
Guest Speaker from St. Kitts



VERDESSA BROWNE
Guest Speaker from St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Feature

Happy World Steelpan Day - You Deserve It!



By Khan Cordice

Today, August 11th, we join the global community in celebrating World Steelpan Day—a day dedicated to one

of the 20th century's most remarkable musical phenomena. For over nine decades, the steelpan has stood as a proud emblem of Caribbean creativity, resilience, and cultural identity.

Born out of struggle and innovation, this instrument carries the sweat, tears, and literal blood of the men—and later women—who transformed discarded oil drums into the only acoustic instrument invented in the 20th century. In my view, these pioneers are some of the greatest engineers, inventors, and musical minds the world has ever seen, and they deserve to be celebrated for their invaluable contributions to an art form that now stands as a unique hallmark of the Caribbean experience. Names like Winston “Spree” Simon, Ellie Mannette, and Anthony “Tony” Williams are internationally recognized for their groundbreaking work in the steelpan movement. But here in Antigua and Barbuda, we too have



our own trailblazers whose legacies must be remembered. Eugene Weston, George “Nugget” Joseph, Arthur “Bum” Jardine, Eustace “Manning” Henry, Bruce “Fundoo” Bloodman and Buster Carty (and many more)—these men gave their lives to the cause,

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laying the groundwork for generations to come.

Their efforts opened the door for legendary Antiguan and Barbudan pan musicians such as the late Victor “Babu” Samuel, one of our most prolific arrangers; Veron Henry; Patrick Gomes; Aubrey “Lacu” Samuel; Everette Thomas of Barbuda; Vincent Freeland; Curtis Cochrane; and Ira Lashley. Today, the mantle is carried by newer voices like Zahra Lake, Gavin Francis, and, humbly, myself. This list is only a small glimpse of the many who have used the steelpan as a vehicle for creativity, cultural pride, and positive change.

On this World Steelpan Day, I wish to highlight Eustace “Gatux” Harris, a man who has dedicated over 60 years to advancing steelpan within our youth and communities. His work has sparked the creation of numerous community steelbands—including church groups—and helped establish the National Youth Steelpan Programme alongside the vision and leadership of Ms. Barbara Mason and her team at the Department of Culture.

Let us not underestimate the value of these contributions. On this day, I ask each of you to support our steelpan musicians, builders, tuners, arrang-



ers, and educators across Antigua and Barbuda. Their work not only sustains an art form—it builds communities, shapes lives, and creates genuine opportunities for our people.

If you ever doubt the power of the steelpan, simply look at what it has

done for me.


Happy World Steelpan Day, and heartfelt thanks to everyone whose vision, sacrifice, and passion have built the unshakable foundation upon which we now stand.




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The Ripple Effect



Change often starts with
the smallest of whispers.

T.J. Kluge

It starts with a whisper, so gentle, so slight,
 A flicker of courage that dances in light.
 A hand that extends, a seed in the ground,
 A truth softly spoken, a hope newly found.
 One step seems so small, just a drop in the sea,
 Yet oceans are born from drops, don't you see?
 A spark in the dark can ignite a great flame,
 A single kind gesture can rewrite a name.

The Ripple Effect



ONE SMALL CHANGE
CAN HAVE AN ENORMOUS IMPACT

Drop one stone in still water, watch the circles expand,
 They travel to shores you can't reach with your hand.

They touch other lives you may never embrace,
 Yet the current you started still runs in its place.
 A smile to a stranger, a word to a friend,
 A wound you help comfort, a rule you help bend.
 These moments seem tiny, yet deep down they weave,
 A fabric of kindness all hearts can believe.
 A voice may feel fragile, like air in the breeze,
 But it rattles the mountains and bends ancient trees.
 One question you raise in a silence so deep
 Can awaken the dreams that were buried in sleep.
 Your truth, when it trembles, still matters, still stays,
 It can open up minds in the most hidden ways.
 One letter, one speech, one story you tell
 Can loosen the chains where injustice once dwelled.
 For a voice is a river that swells as it flows,
 It carries the seeds and the roots that it grows.
 When one person speaks, others join, others try,
 And soon there are choirs that rise to the sky.
 Do not think you're too quiet, too tiny, too small,
 For whispers can echo through cities and halls.
 A ripple of words can become a great wave
 That washes away what once held us enslaved.
 Change does not thunder at first with great might,
 It begins in the hush of an ordinary night.
 It tiptoes in slowly, unseen and unknown,
 Until all the seeds that were planted have grown.
 One choice to recycle, one meal shared with care,
 One stand for the truth when the crowd doesn't dare.
 One moment of courage, one wrong you make right,
 One lamp you keep burning to banish the night.
 From marches in streets to the kindness at home,
 From planting one tree to the fight to atone—
 Every step is a thread in the tapestry spun,
 And history whispers: great change starts with one.
 One grows into many, like drops in the rain,

Feature

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They gather in rivers, they carve through terrain.
 They carry the dream through the valleys and hills,

They power the wind and they turn the great mills.
 So never dismiss what your hands choose to do,
 The ripples are waiting for actions from you.
 A thought turns to motion, a motion to more,
 Until waves of compassion break far from your shore.

One voice, one action, one moment to stand,
 One choice to be gentle, one outstretched hand.
 A candle that's lit in the darkness of night
 Can guide other candles to join in its light.
 Remember: the greatest of rivers once curled
 From the smallest of streams in a faraway world.
 And the greatest of movements that history recalls
 Were born from the whispers that started in halls.
 So speak when you're trembling, act though you fear,
 For ripples keep moving though you're nowhere near.
 Change starts with one action — that's always been
 true,
 And the first drop of water could be born from you.



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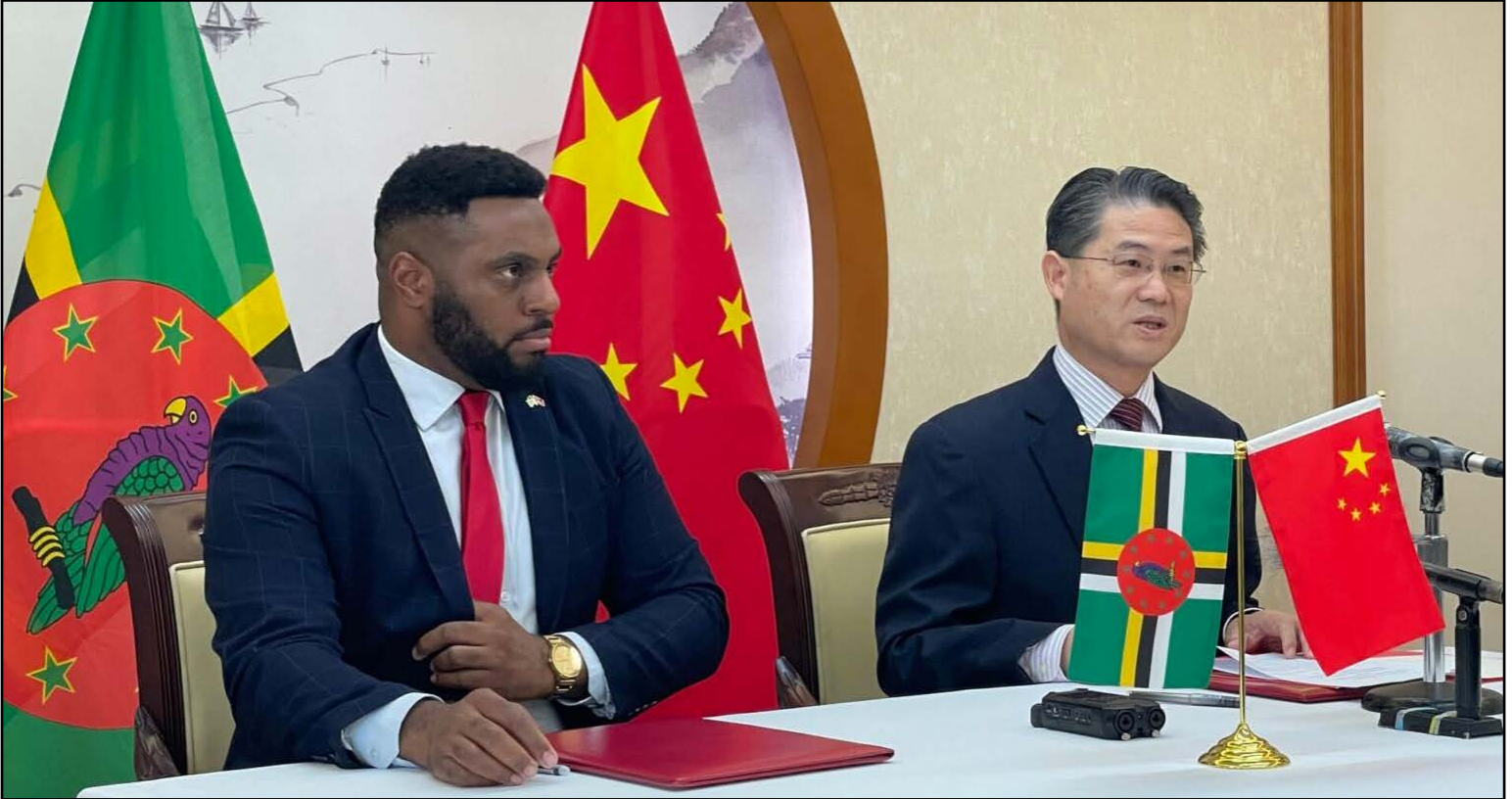
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Regional News

Dominica and China sign five-year medical cooperation agreement



The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the People's Republic of China have formalized a new phase of medical cooperation with the signing of a five-year agreement for the continued dispatch of Chinese medical professionals to Dominica.

The signing ceremony was held this week at the Chinese Embassy in Morne Daniel, marking what officials described as a significant step in the longstanding partnership between the two nations.

"It is a great pleasure to sign this protocol between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica on the dispatch of the Chinese medical team for the pe-

riod from 2025 to 2030," said Chinese Ambassador to Dominica, Chu Maoming.

Ambassador Chu emphasized the importance of the agreement, calling it "another important milestone" in bilateral relations. He noted that since the arrival of the first Chinese medical team in 2009, collaboration in the health sector has deepened, producing "remarkable achievements."

Over the years, Chinese medical professionals have worked alongside Dominican counterparts at the Dominica China Friendship Hospital (DCFH), contributing their expertise and compassion.

"They have brought healing and hope to thousands of Dominicans, including during the most challenging

time of natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic," Ambassador Chu said. "The work has saved lives and forged a lasting bond of trust between our two countries."

Dominica's Minister for Health, Wellness and Social Services, Cassanni Laville, expressed gratitude for the continued support from China, highlighting the impact of the partnership over the past 16 years.

"China has partnered with Dominica with medical cooperation to provide specialists to us in areas where we've had deficiencies," Laville stated. He described the new agreement as "another reminder of the sincere commitment to a lasting friendship between the two countries."

Laville also noted that the incoming team will provide specialists in four critical areas of healthcare.

"You have not only assured your commitment towards developing here in terms of our infrastructure, our equipment, health care and health services, but also towards training and providing the human resources to increase and improve our healthcare outcomes," he said.

The renewed protocol ensures that Chinese medical teams will continue to support Dominica's health-care system through 2030, reinforcing a partnership that both governments say is built on mutual respect and shared goals for public health advancement. (Dominica News Online)

Tropical storm activity expected to surge in Atlantic through August, hurricane experts report



As tropical wave activity intensifies off the coast of Africa and atmospheric conditions across the Atlantic become increasingly favorable, AccuWeather® hurricane experts are forecasting a surge in tropical storm formation during August, with three to five named storms expected to develop.

The next names on the Atlantic basin storm list are Erin, Fernand, and Gabrielle, with Tropical Storm Dexter already having made its mark earlier this month.

Meteorologists are currently keeping a close watch on four distinct zones within the Atlantic basin that show potential for tropical development. These include a low-risk area situated in the Gulf of Mexico, another low-risk zone just off the U.S. East Coast, a medium-risk region in the central Atlantic, and a high-risk area located farther east in the Atlantic.

According to Senior Meteorologist Chad Merrill, a large plume of Saharan dust is currently sweeping off the

African coast, temporarily suppressing storm formation in the main development region. However, this dust is expected to dissipate by mid-next week, paving the way for more favorable conditions for thunderstorm clusters and tropical waves.

“We see an eventual favorable environment for thunderstorm clusters coming off the coast of Africa,” Merrill said. “The timeline for any potential impact to the Caribbean or the U.S. is Aug. 17 to 22.”

Merrill noted that Erin is likely to form by early next week, evolving from a low-pressure system in the central Atlantic. While this system has a high chance of becoming a tropical depression or storm, it is expected to recurve near or east of Bermuda, posing no direct threat to the U.S.

Fernand, the next name in line, may emerge from a tropical wave currently moving off the African coast. AccuWeather® is closely monitoring this wave, as it could approach the Carib-

bean and possibly the U.S. East Coast by mid- to late August.

While no immediate threats are projected, AccuWeather® experts caution that parts of the central and eastern Gulf Coast, as well as the Atlantic coast from South Florida to Virginia Beach, may experience occasional tropical rain and wind impacts through mid- to late August.

“We typically see four named storms form in the Atlantic basin during the month of August,” Merrill said. “The tropical activity we’re seeing right now is normal, not unusual.”

After an unusually quiet August and early September in 2024, this year’s uptick in activity marks a return to historical averages. With multiple systems brewing and conditions aligning, AccuWeather® continues to monitor the Atlantic basin closely, urging residents in vulnerable areas to stay informed and prepared. (Dominica News Online)

Regional News

Policeman's spouse killed in MoBay shooting, cop and his son injured



The spouse of a policeman was shot and killed and the policeman and his young son seriously injured in a gun attack in Reading on the outskirts of Montego Bay, St James, on Saturday.

The incident reportedly occurred about 8:39 p.m.

The policeman and the child are reportedly in critical condition in hospital.

He is reportedly a mem-

ber of the Area One Lottery Scam Task Force.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force has not yet given an official report on the incident

A message from the Jamaica Police Federation on the shooting noted that "this is a sad time for the Jamaica Constabulary family".

"We implore our members to be vigilant on or off duty," it said. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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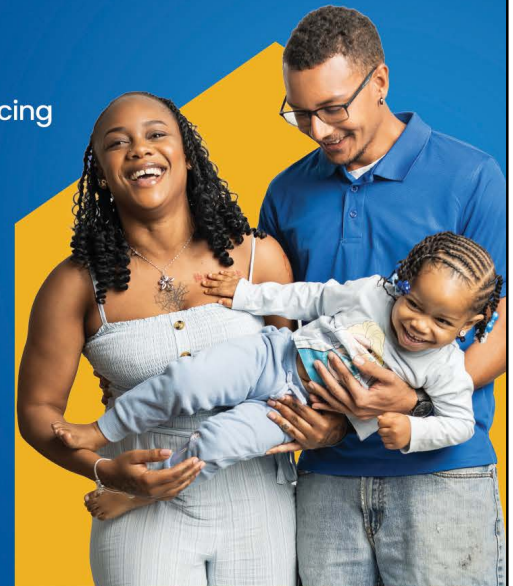
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

CDC shooter believed Covid vaccine made him suicidal, his father tells police



A Georgia man who opened fire on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters, shooting dozens of rounds into the sprawling complex and killing a police officer, had blamed the COVID-19 vaccine for making him depressed and suicidal, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The 30-year-old shooter also tried to get into the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta but was stopped by guards before driving to a pharmacy across the street and opening fire late Friday afternoon, the official said. He was armed with five guns, including at least one long gun, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation.

DeKalb County Police Officer David Rose was mortally wounded while responding.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., whose skepticism of vaccines has been a cornerstone of his career, voiced sup-

port for CDC employees Saturday. But some laid-off CDC employees said Kennedy shares responsibility for the violence and should resign.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation named Patrick Joseph White as the shooter, but authorities haven't said whether he was killed by police or killed himself.

The suspect's father contacted police and identified his son as the possible shooter, the law enforcement official told AP. The father said his son had been upset over the death of the son's dog, and he had also become fixated on the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the official. The family lives in Kennesaw, Georgia, an Atlanta suburb about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of CDC headquarters.

A voicemail left at a phone number listed publicly for White's family wasn't returned Saturday.

The shooting left gaping bullet holes in windows across the CDC campus, where thousands work on critical disease research. Employees huddled

under lockdown for hours while investigators gathered evidence. Staff was encouraged to work from home Monday or take leave.

At least four CDC buildings were hit, Director Susan Monarez said on X.

Sam Atkins, who lives in Stone Mountain, said outside the CVS pharmacy on Saturday that gun violence feels like "a fact of life" now. "This is an everyday thing that happens here in Georgia."

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic shooting at CDC's Atlanta campus that took the life of officer David Rose," Kennedy said Saturday. "We know how shaken our public health colleagues feel today. No one should face violence while working to protect the health of others."

Some rejected the expressions of solidarity Kennedy made in a "Dear colleagues" email, and called for his resignation.

"Kennedy is directly responsible for the villainization of CDC's workforce through his continuous lies about science and vaccine safety, which have fueled a climate of hostility and mistrust," said Fired But Fighting, a group of laid-off employees opposing changes to the CDC by President Donald Trump's administration.

Under Kennedy, CDC has laid off nearly 2,000 employees. Trump proposes cutting the agency's budget in half next year, moving some CDC functions into a new Administration for a Healthy America. Kennedy has a history as a leader in the anti-vaccine movement, but he reached new prominence by spreading distrust of

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COVID-19 vaccines. For example, he called it “criminal medical malpractice” to give COVID-19 vaccines to children.

Kennedy parlayed that attention into a presidential bid and endorsement of Trump, leading to Trump naming him secretary. Kennedy continues to undercut the scientific consensus for vaccines, ordering \$500 million cut from vaccine development funding on Tuesday.

Fired But Fighting also called for the resignation of Russell Vought, noting a video recorded before Trump appointed him Office of Management and Budget director with orders to dismantle much of the federal government.

“We want the bureaucrats to be traumatically affected,” Vought said in the video, obtained by ProPublica and the research group Documented. “When they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work, because they are increasingly viewed as the villains.”

A request for comment from Vought’s agency wasn’t returned.

This shooting was the “physical embodiment of the narrative that has taken over, attacking science, and attacking our federal workers,” said Sarah Boim, a former CDC communications staffer who was fired this year during a wave of terminations.

A neighbor of White told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that White spoke with her multiple times about his distrust of COVID-19 vaccines.

Nancy Hoalst, who lives on the same street as White’s family, said he seemed like a “good guy” while doing yard work and walking dogs for neighbors, but he would bring up vaccines even in unrelated conversations.

“He was very unsettled, and he very deeply believed that vaccines hurt him and were hurting other people.” Hoalst told the Atlanta newspaper. “He emphatically believed that.”

But Hoalst said she never believed White would be violent: “I had no idea he thought he would take it out on the CDC.”

Rose, 33, was a former Marine who served in Afghanistan, graduated from the police academy in March and “quickly earned the respect of his colleagues for his dedication, courage and professionalism,” DeKalb County said.

“This evening, there is a wife without a husband. There are three children, one unborn, without a father,” DeKalb County CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson said.

Senior CDC leadership told some staff Saturday that they would do a full security assessment following the shooting, according to a conference call recording obtained by the AP.

One staffer said people felt like “sitting ducks” Friday. Another asked whether administrators had spoken with Kennedy and if they could speak to “the misinformation, the disinformation” that “caused this issue.”

It is clear CDC leaders fear employees could continue to be targeted. In a Saturday email obtained by the AP, CDC’s security office asked employees to scrape old CDC parking decals off their vehicles. The office said decals haven’t been required for some time. (AP)

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Netanyahu says starvation claims in Gaza are exaggerated as backlash mounts over plans for new Israeli offensive



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came under pressure from all sides Sunday as his controversial plan to seize Gaza City drew backlash inside his government and on the streets of Israel, while malnutrition deaths in the Gaza Strip continued to climb.

At a press conference on Sunday, a defiant Netanyahu continued to deny there is starvation in Gaza and claimed the situation is being exaggerated. Netanyahu only conceded there was “deprivation” in Gaza but said “no one in Gaza would have survived after two years of war” if Israel was implementing a “starvation policy.”

Netanyahu went on to defend the new military offensive, saying Israel had “no choice” but to “finish the job” and “defeat Hamas,” while claiming that “hundreds of aid trucks have gone into Gaza.”

But his critics on the left say his proposed new military offensive is likely to worsen the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and further endanger the hostages still being held by Hamas. Protests calling for an immediate ceasefire

drew thousands of people Saturday night in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities.

And for some far-right members of Netanyahu’s coalition government, the plan isn’t tough enough.

Foreign Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who has pushed for Israel to impose sovereignty over Gaza, called it a “foolish” half-measure, saying in a video message Saturday night that he did not support it.

Smotrich said the proposed offensive was intended to pressure Hamas into agreeing to a temporary ceasefire, and that instead Israel needed a “sharp, clear path” to victory over Hamas.

The dissatisfaction expressed by Smotrich, who said he had “lost faith” in the prime minister, threatens to destabilize Netanyahu’s fragile coalition.

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid seized on the opportunity, calling on Smotrich to join him in advancing a bill to dissolve parliament and hold new elections.

“In your own words, you admitted

that the prime minister’s policy is not leading to a decisive outcome in Gaza, is not returning our hostages, and is not winning the war,” Lapid said in a statement, according to the Times of Israel. “You also added that you can no longer stand behind the prime minister and back him up.”

The United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting later Sunday to discuss Israel’s proposed offensive, which has been condemned by Britain, France, Australia and other Western governments.

James Kariuki, the U.K.’s deputy permanent representative to the U.N., called on Israel to reverse its decision, saying the plan “will only deepen the suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza.”

It comes amid a worsening hunger crisis in Gaza, where humanitarian aid has been limited since Israel lifted a two-and-a-half-month blockade in May.

The Gaza Health Ministry said Sunday that five more people, including two children, had died from malnutrition and starvation in the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 217, including 100 children.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, said Thursday that at least 99 people in Gaza, including 29 children under age 5, have died from malnutrition this year, noting the real toll was most likely higher.

The U.N. and other international organizations say the humanitarian aid arriving in Gaza through air drops and on a small number of trucks is far from sufficient to feed the enclave’s population of 2 million people.

On Saturday, a 14-year-old boy named Muhannad Eid died after being struck

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by an aid package that was airdropped over Gaza, his brother, Muhammad Eid, said.

"This is an aerial humiliation, not aid," Eid said. "We need protection. We want international protection."

With the latest death, 23 people have now been killed during airdrops since the Israel-Hamas war began 22 months ago, according to the Gaza government media office.

"We have repeatedly warned of the danger of these inhumane methods and have repeatedly called for the safe and adequate entry of aid through land crossings," it said in a statement.

According to local health officials, more than 61,000 Palestinians, including thousands of children, have been killed since the war began on Oct. 7, 2023, with Hamas's terrorist attack on Israel. During that attack, Hamas-led militants killed about 1,200 people and abducted 251 others.

Of the 50 hostages still being held by Hamas, Israel believes about 20 are alive. Hostage advocates and Netanyahu's own army chief have warned that expanded military operations could put their lives in danger.

The plan, which Netanyahu's government announced Friday, outlines five goals for ending the war: disarming Hamas, returning all hostages, demilitarizing Gaza, taking security control of the area, and establishing "an alternative civil administration that is neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority."

Those preparations are expected to take weeks or months, a delay that hardliners in the Israeli government fear could leave room for a diplomatic solution that would undermine their objectives.

Experts have also questioned whether the plan would protect Israelis, or work at all.

Michael Milshtein, head of the Pales-

tinian Studies Forum at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center, said the plan was full of "hollow slogans."

"There is a very common slogan: 'We will release the hostages and defeat Hamas at the same time,'" he said. "You can't do both simultaneously. Hamas will execute them, or the IDF itself could in the bombing."

Netanyahu said Sunday that his goal was to get the hostages out alive and recover the remains of those who had died.

"If we don't do anything, we are not going to get them out," he said. "The move I'm talking about has the possibility of getting them out."

There are also questions as to who would run Gaza long term. Netanyahu said he intends to hand control of the territory to "Arab forces," adding Sunday that "several candidates" are being looked at for the establishment of a new "transitional authority."

He has not specified who that could be, aside from saying it would not be Hamas or the Palestinian Authority.

"That leaves nobody," said H.A. Hellyer, a senior associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London. "No Arab country is going to be Israel's enforcer on the ground." (NBC News)

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Mexican authorities accuse Adidas of cultural appropriation in their sandal design

Mexican authorities are accusing sportswear company Adidas of plagiarizing artisans in southern Mexico, alleging that a new sandal design is strikingly similar to the traditional Indigenous footwear known as huaraches.

The controversy has fueled accusations of cultural appropriation by the footwear brand, with authorities saying this is not the first time traditional Mexican handicrafts have been copied. Citing these concerns, local authorities have asked Adidas to withdraw the shoe model.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Friday that Adidas was already in talks with authorities in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca to provide “compensation for the people who were plagiarized,” and that her government was preparing legal reforms to prevent the copying of Mexican handicrafts.

The design at the center of the controversy is the “Oaxaca Slip-On,” a sandal created by U.S. designer Willy Chavarria for Adidas Originals. The sandals feature thin leather straps braided in a style that is unmistakably similar to the traditional Mexican huaraches. Instead of flat leather soles, the Adidas shoes tout a more chunky, sports shoe sole.

According to Mexican authorities, Adidas’ design contains elements that are part of the cultural heritage of the Zapotec Indigenous



communities in Oaxaca, particularly in the town of Villa Hidalgo de Yalálag. Handicrafts are a crucial economic lifeline in Mexico, providing jobs for around half a million people across the country. The industry accounts for around 10% of the gross domestic product of states like Oaxaca, Jalisco, Michoacán and Guerrero.

For Viridiana Jarquín García, a huaraches creator and vendor in Oaxaca’s capital, the Adidas shoes were a “cheap copy” of the kind of work that Mexican artists take time and care to craft.

“The artistry is being lost. We’re losing our tradition,” she said in front of her small booth of leather shoes.

Authorities in Oaxaca have called for the “Oaxaca Slip-On” to be withdrawn and demanded a public apology

from Adidas, with officials describing the design as “cultural appropriation” that may violate Mexican law.

In a public letter to Adidas leadership, Oaxaca state Gov. Salomón Jara Cruz criticized the company’s design, saying that “creative inspiration” is not a valid justification for using cultural expressions that “provide identity to communities.”

“Culture isn’t sold, it’s respected,” he added.

Adidas responded in a letter Friday afternoon, saying that the company “deeply values the cultural wealth of Mexico’s Indigenous people and recognizes the relevance” of the criticisms. It requested to sit down with local officials and to discuss how it can “repair the damage” to Indigenous populations.

The controversy follows years of efforts by Mexico’s government and artisans to push back on major global clothing brands that they say copy traditional designs.

In 2021, the federal government asked manufacturers including Zara, Anthropologie and Patowl to provide a public explanation for why they copied clothing designs from Oaxaca’s Indigenous communities to sell in their stores.

Now, Mexican authorities say they’re trying to work out stricter regulations in an effort to protect artists. But Marina Núñez, Mexico’s undersecretary of cultural development, noted that they also want to establish guidelines to not deprive artists of “the opportunity to trade or collaborate with several of these companies that have very broad commercial reach.” (AP)

Sports News

Five-member team to represent Antigua at NACAC Senior Championships

A five-member track and field team will depart on Tuesday to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association (NACAC) Senior Championships, which will take place in Freeport, Grand Bahamas, on August 15-17.

The team is spear-headed by multi-time Olympian, sprinter Cejhae Greene, who will contest the men's 100-meter sprint event.

Also included is the 2025 national sprint champion, sprinter Dwayne Fleming, who will contest the men's 100 and 200-meter events.

The other members are reigning



Cejhae Greene

national 200-meter champion Dar-

ion Skerritt, national 400-meter champion Jalen Dyett, and national shot put record holder Christopher Johnson.

Skerritt will compete in the men's 200-meter race, Dyett will contest the men's 400-meter event, and Johnson will vie for supremacy in the men's shot put competition.

Jamille Nelson will accompany the team as head coach and manager. President of the Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA) and NACAC Council Member Everton Cornelius will attend the NACAC Delegates Congress.

Wirtz wins Germany's player of the year award



Liverpool's Florian Wirtz in action during a friendly soccer match between AC Milan and Liverpool at the Hong Kong Football Festival held at the Kai Tak Stadium in Hong Kong, Saturday, July 26, 2025. (AP)

BERLIN (AP) — Liverpool's Florian Wirtz has been voted Germany's player of the year for 2024-25 after another standout season at Bayer Leverkusen while Freiburg's Julian Schuster won the coach's accolade.

Germany teammates Giulia Gwinn and Ann-Katrin Berger have to share the women's player of the year award after both received 608 valid votes from members of the Association of German Sports Journalists (VDS)

in the yearly poll organized by Kicker magazine.

Kicker said Sunday that the 22-year-old Wirtz, who switched to Liverpool in June for a fee that could climb to 116 million pounds (\$156 million), received 191 votes, ahead of Michael Olise of Bayern Munich (81), Nick Woltemade of Stuttgart (71) and Thomas Müller (70), who last week joined MSL side Vancouver after a career at Bayern.

"I can't think of a more worthy successor than you," former winner Toni Kroos said of Wirtz.

Schuster led modest club Freiburg to fifth place in the Bundesliga, securing Europa League qualification in his first season

in charge since taking over from longtime coach Christian Streich.

Schuster was followed by Horst Steffen, who almost led Elversberg to Bundesliga promotion, and 2020 winner Hansi Flick, who led Barcelona to a domestic double.

The player of the year award has been awarded since 1960, with the coaches honored since 2002. Franz Beckenbauer leads the player category with four awards, while Jürgen Klopp and Felix Magath both won the coach's award three times.

The women's player of the year award has been awarded each season since 1996.

CWI convenes emergency strategic meeting



At the request of Cricket West Indies President Dr. Kishore Shallow, an emergency meeting of the Cricket Strategy & Officiating Committee is being held in Trinidad and Tobago.

Critical challenges facing West Indies cricket and implement immediate structural reforms are being looked at during the two-day meeting at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad on August 10 and 11.

The two-day summit is bringing together the Cricket Strategy & Officiating Committee, with such members as former West Indies players Dr. Desmond Haynes, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Ian Bradshaw, as well as special invitees Sir Clive Lloyd and Sir Vivian Richards.

Also expected to be in attendance is senior men's players and coaching staff led by head coach Daren Sammy. Cricket West Indies Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe welcomed the imminent important discus-

sions and value of heeding the President's call to convene.

"This summit represents a critical turning point for West Indies cricket. We hope to engage in frank, honest and solutions-oriented discussions with coaches, former and current players, and administrators," said Bascombe.

"What we hope will emerge is a unified vision and a clearly defined, comprehensive framework designed to correct systemic inadequacies and close the performance gap at the elite level.

"This is not about quick fixes but identifying the structural reforms necessary across our development and high-performance systems, and strategic short and long-term initiatives required to drive the necessary change."

The first day of talks was expected to focus on "High Performance Strategy and Structural Reform."

Wide-ranging panel dis-

cussions was expected to examine current team performance challenges and identify immediate improvement strategies.

The focus on day-two will shift to "Player-Centered High-Performance Solutions" with direct input from current senior players and coaching staff about performance gaps and team ambitions.

Head Coach Daren Sammy will lead a coaching staff feedback session to address the team's brand of cricket as well as any immediate difficulties, while players will be able to speak candidly about their experiences.

This meeting is CWI's response to ongoing performance concerns to ensure swift action on critical areas identified during the two-day strategic review.

Implementation of the meeting's outcomes is expected to begin immediately, and progress updates will be provided as restructuring is deployed across all levels of West Indies cricket. Cricket West Indies CEO Chris Dehring also highlighted the significance of the think tank.

"This emergency strategic meeting is not simply a reaction but a necessary intervention. The performance of our senior men's team has raised legitimate concerns among our fans, stakeholders and partners and we could not afford to continue with business as

usual," he said.

"We expect deep, transparent conversations with the people closest to the action such as our players, coaches and selectors and what we hope to emerge is a serious, organization-wide commitment to change.

"As administrators, we are determined to support these reforms with the necessary resources, infrastructure and leadership. West Indies cricket deserves no less."

A press briefing will be held following the conclusion of the final day of talks, on Monday, August 11, at 3 PM in the Hyatt Meeting Room to shed light and share insights on the outcome of the sessions.

This briefing will be broadcast live on the Windies Cricket YouTube Channel and will feature a moderated Q&A session to allow both in-person journalists and online viewers to pose questions to a select panel, ensuring broad accessibility to the media, cricket community and stakeholders.

The panel will include CWI CEO Chris Dehring, Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe, legendary former captain Sir Clive Lloyd and Cricket Strategy & Officiating Committee Chairman Enoch Lewis.

During this briefing, Miles Bascombe will provide detailed insights into the strategic themes and long-term strategies developed during the meeting.

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Australia beat South Africa in first T20 in Darwin



Australia's Tim David bats during the T20 international cricket match between Australia and South Africa in Darwin, Australia, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025. (AP)

DARWIN, Australia (AP) — Tim David bludgeoned eight sixes in his robust 83 and led Australia to a 17-run win over South Africa in the first T20 on Sunday as international cricket returned to Darwin after 17 years.

David's aggressive knock off 52 balls pushed Australia to 178 all out after the home team had lost five big hitters inside the first seven overs.

Opening batter Ryan Rickelton (71) and Tristan Stubbs (37) kept South Africa in the hunt, but Josh Hazlewood's (three for 27) twin strike in the 15th over and Glenn Maxwell's spectacular catch of Rickelton in the final over limited the Proteas to 161 for nine and earned the Australians their ninth successive win in T20.

Stubbs and Rickelton revived South Africa hopes with a 72-run stand after the visitors had lost three wickets inside the batting powerplay and slipped to 48 for three.

Captain Aidan Markram, returning to lead the side after being rested for the

triangular series in Zimbabwe, struck three boundaries in Hazlewood's first over before he was caught in the covers in the same over.

Lhuan-dre Pretorius (14) attempted an inside out shot against Glenn Maxwell's off-spin and was caught at wide long off, while Ben Dwarshuis (3-26) dismissed power-hitter Dewald Brevis for just two runs off six balls.

Rickelton and Stubbs started picking up the pace in the second half of the run-chase as leg-spinner Adam Zampa struggled to grip the wet ball. But Hazlewood's return slowed South Africa, which lost four wickets for just three runs.

Stubbs got a faint inside edge to Hazlewood's slower ball before George Linde was caught at slips by Maxwell without scoring. Zampa then bagged the wickets of Corbin Bosch and Senuran Muthusamy off the final two balls of his four-over spell to finish with two for 33.

Earlier, Kwena Maphaka (4-20) be-

came the youngest bowler among the full ICC member countries to bag a four-wicket haul at the age of 19 years and 124 days. But David's phenomenal hitting, which included some of his sixes landing on the roof of the stadium, gave Australia a respectable total to defend.

Captain Mitchell Marsh started the three-match series with a first ball six to Lungi Ngidi over long off but Australia lost a flurry of wickets inside the first six overs of the powerplay with Kagiso Rabada (two for 29) striking for the wickets of both openers and Maphaka also denting the middle-order.

Travis Head (2) sliced a catch to Maphaka at short third man only a ball after he got dropped by Linde at point. Maphaka then took a well-judged running catch to dismiss Marsh at square leg.

Despite losing two early wickets Australia didn't hold back. Cameron Green made a quickfire 35 off 13 balls but skied a catch to wicketkeeper Rickelton and Linde struck off his first ball when Josh Inglis couldn't clear the fielder at point.

But some scrappy fielding also cost South Africa with Stubbs dropping a sitter of David in the outfield soon after the batter had completed his half-century.

David put on 59 runs with Dwarshuis (17) before Maphaka struck twice in his final over. He first had David finally caught by Stubbs at long-on and then Zampa flicked the fast bowler straight to square leg.

Nathan Ellis made 12 off 11 balls but was run out off the final ball as South Africa bowled out Australia for the first time in a T20.

Antigua claim 6th place finish in Americas Group IV Davis Cup contest

For the second successive year, Antigua and Barbuda finished in sixth place in the Americas Group IV Davis Cup Competition, which ended in Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday.

Like last year, Antigua and Barbuda lost 2-0 against the United States Virgin Islands in the playoff for fifth place at the National Racquet Centre in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago.

De Andre Weeks of Antigua and Barbuda lost 6-1, 6-3 against Ozzy Odom in the first singles match. Antigua and Barbuda's Shaquan Rodain Monelle was beaten 6-2, 6-1 by Imani Beharry in the second singles.

Antigua and Barbuda also suffered a 2-1 loss against Cuba in their fourth and final match to finish third in Pool B during the round-robin preliminary group stage of the 10-team competition.

Denilson Martinez gave Cuba the lead with a crushing 6-0, 6-0 victory against Deandre Weeks in the opening singles. Antigua and Barbuda drew level with Jody Maginley dispatching Alberto Gonzalez 6-2, 6-2 in the second singles.

However, Cuba won the



Antigua and Barbuda's Jody Maginley competes in the Americas Group IV Davis Cup Competition at the National Racquet Centre in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago, Friday, July 26, 2024. Maginley won three of his four singles matches during this year's tennis tournament from August 4 to 9. (File photo)

match when Martinez and Gonzalez combined their efforts to prevail 6-0, 7-5 against Maginley and Rodain Shaquan Monelle in the doubles.

Antigua and Barbuda notched up their second win with a 2-1 victory against Suriname in their third encounter in Pool B. The Antiguanians had to overcome a

one-nil deficit after Rodain Shaquan Monelle lost the opening singles 6-2, 6-0 to Joshio Loor of Suriname.

But Antigua and Barbuda's top and only professional player, Jody Maginley, hit back to level the tie, beating Yigal Bergen 6-2, 6-2 in the second singles match.

Maginley and Monelle

combined forces to clinch victory by prevailing 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 in the doubles match against Loor and Bergen.

Antigua and Barbuda also recorded a 2-1 win against Panama and suffered a 3-0 loss to unbeaten Group B winners, the Bahamas.

Meanwhile, the Bahamas and Guatemala finished as the top two teams in the competition and have gained promotion to compete in Americas Group III in 2026.

The top two teams in each pool at the end of the round-robin group play advanced to the promotion playoffs.

Pool A winner Guatemala prevailed 2-0 against Cuba, who were runner-up in Pool B, in one of the two promotional playoff matches.

Pool B winner the Bahamas prevailed 2-0 against Trinidad and Tobago, who were runner-up in Pool A, in the other promotional playoff encounter.

Haiti defeated Panama 2-0 in the playoff for seventh place, and Suriname snatched a 2-1 victory against St. Lucia in the playoff for ninth place.