

GPO suspends some services to U.S.

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Cabinet of Antigua an Barbuda met with the Ecclesiastical Commission on Wednesday.

Story on Page 3

GPO temporarily suspends packages to/from the United States

The General Post Office has announced that it is temporarily suspending the acceptance and dispatch of packages destined for the United States, effective immediately.

In a public notice, the GPO said this decision follows the recent issuance of Executive Order 14324 by the U.S. Government, which eliminates the duty-free “de minimis” customs exemption for international parcels valued at \$800.00.

It said these new regulations, set to take effect on August 29, 2025, introduce complex customs processing requirements and new tariff structures that have not been fully clarified by U.S. authorities.

“As a result, postal operators worldwide, including ours, are unable to guarantee compliance with the new protocols and must pause shipments until further guidance is received. We join other countries, including the UK, Canada, India, France, Spain, and our fellow Caribbean countries, in temporarily suspending shipments containing goods to the US now subject to U.S. Customs Import Duty,” the notice stated.

It is advising the public to please note the following:

- Letters, documents, and personal communications not involving goods or monetary value will continue to be accepted and delivered.

“We understand the inconvenience this may cause to individuals, families, and businesses who rely on our services.

“We are actively working with regional and international partners to resolve these issues and resume full operations as soon as possible.


“Thank you for understanding and continue to trust in the General Post Office of Antigua and Barbuda,” it concluded.

Meanwhile, Post Master General, Al-




gernon Gomes, explained that this move by the US and its impact are now being considered by the International Postal Union which is presently exploring ways to resolve the issue. He warned that if the matter is

not resolved and service to the US is resumed, then there are likely to be additional costs involved in sending packages to the US. These items were once exempted.


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National Day of Prayer to be observed annually with public holiday



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Cabinet of Antigua an Barbuda met with the Ecclesiastical Commission on Wednesday.

The Cabinet has agreed to the observance of a National Day of Prayer each year starting this year, noting that the day will be a public holiday.

This comes out of a meeting the Cabinet held on Wednesday with members of the Ecclesiastical Commission of Antigua and Barbuda.

Director General of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant revealed that the holiday will be observed on the second Thursday in September (September 11 this year).

“The day will feature a national march and a Prayer Service, with the entire day dedicated to prayer and fasting for the nation and people of Antigua and

Barbuda.

“Additionally, Cabinet approved a ban on the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on this day from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,” he further revealed.

In addition to the Day of Prayer, the Cabinet and members of the Commission discussed the ratification of the Commission’s Terms of Reference and a Code of Conduct for guiding political parties and candidates.

Cabinet agreed to review both documents and invited the Commission to return in the coming weeks for further discussions on their contents. Some of the concerns of the commission relate to political behavior such as the following;

- The use of wholesome non-defamatory language
- The practice of an exemplary lifestyle
- The Cultivation of Inspiring Successive Leadership, and,
- The pursuit of a legacy of respect

The Ecclesiastical Commission of Antigua and Barbuda says it is not the Church, neither is it a department of government. The Commission represents the church to the government and informs government on matters relevant to the wellbeing of the Christian community.

Sir Ronald Sanders awarded the Order of Merit of Ukraine

The Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda is pleased to issue the following announcement.

On 24 August 2025, the President of Ukraine, His Excellency Volodymyr Zelensky, decreed that “The Order of Merit of Ukraine” is awarded to Sir Ronald Sanders, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States of America, “for a significant contribution to strengthening interstate cooperation, supporting the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine”.

The award will be formally presented to Sir Ronald at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in September.

Sir Ronald has advocated for upholding Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity in international fora, including the Organization of



Antigua and Barbuda to the United States of America, Sir Ronald Sanders,

American States, where he piloted resolutions and declarations to sup-

port Ukraine. He has also frequently written in his weekly syndicated column, detailing the case for global support of the Ukrainian people.

Sir Ronald said, “I am greatly honoured by the award from President Zelensky. I regard it as an award not only to me but to my Government in Antigua and Barbuda for its stance in standing up for the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and international law.”

He added that “the courage and resilience of the Ukrainian people against superior odds to maintain their autonomy and identity is an example to all small states that are confronted with unfairness and injustice”.

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And I'm Dewey

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VACANCY

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The **St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC)** is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the position of **Maintenance Manager**.

The successful candidate will be required to ensure smooth, safe, and efficient operation of the Corporation's facilities by overseeing all aspects of maintenance, including planning, scheduling, execution and quality control. This involves managing resources, leading a team and optimizing maintenance practices to reduce downtime, extend asset life and minimize cost. The Maintenance Manager will be required to work closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support the Corporation's strategic goals.

Key Responsibilities include:

Overseeing daily maintenance of facilities, equipment, and machinery

- Managing and guiding maintenance staff
- Developing preventative maintenance schedules and procedures
- Coordinating with vendors and contractors
- Managing inventory, budgets, and maintenance records
- Ensuring compliance with safety regulations
- Supporting emergency repairs and disaster preparedness initiatives

Minimum Qualifications:

- Degree or certification in Engineering, Facilities/Maintenance Management or a related field (BSc/BA in Business or Facility Management is an asset)
- Minimum 5 years' experience in maintenance management
- Strong technical knowledge in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and mechanical systems
- Proven leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills

Application Instructions:

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, detailed resume, and copies of relevant qualifications no later than June 15, 2025 to:

The Executive Director
St. John's Development Corporation
P.O. Box 1473
St. John's
Antigua

Or email: hr@sjdcanu.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Venezuela seeks the support of ALBA friends in face of US increased military build-up

The Venezuelan government is seeking the support of its Caribbean friends who are members of ALBA to counter the growing threat of military intervention by the United States, which recently increased its military presence in the Southern Caribbean.

That country's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yvan Gil and Vice Minister for the Caribbean, Raul Li Causi were in St. John's on Thursday holding meetings with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"On behalf of President Nicolás Maduro, we had the honour of visiting Antigua and Barbuda, where we held a constructive meeting with Prime Minister Gastón Browne. During our meeting, we discussed in depth the current geopolitical situation in the region and the various threats that jeopardize the peace and security of our peoples. In particular, we highlighted the violation of our status as a Zone of Peace, proclaimed by CELAC in 2014, as well as the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco, which establishes our region as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. We also reviewed the bilateral agenda and progress on regional initiatives, such as the Agro-ALBA project, which seeks to strengthen agricultural cooperation between our countries," Foreign Minister Gil has reported.

Antigua and Barbuda is part of the grouping of Caribbean and Latin American countries that make up ALBA.



PM Gaston Browne (left) with Venezuela's Foreign Minister Yvan Gil (right)



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yvan Gil and Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign affairs



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Police investigate the death of 18-Year-Old Kahleel Simon

The police are continuing investigations into the circumstances surrounding death of Kahleel Simon of Bolans.

The 18-year-old lost his life during a police shooting incident at Bolans on Wednesday, 27 August.

The matter remains under active investigation, and is now being treated as a Coroner's Case, where a Coroner's Inquest is expected to be conducted.

Acting Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers has expressed his deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Kahleel Simon. He is assuring the family and the wider Bolans



community that a full, thorough, and transparent investigation is being conducted. The police are appealing to

members of the public who may have information that could assist in the ongoing investigation to contact the Criminal Investigations De-

partment at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).

Bail denied Dominican Republic national charged with arson

A Dominican Republic national - 31-year-old Luis De Los Santos, who faces arson charges, was denied bail when he appeared in the magistrate's court on Thursday.

De Los Santos is accused of causing the fire which destroyed the Immigration Detention Centre, at Coolidge.

It was reported that at approximately 4:20 p.m. on Monday, 18 August 2025, the Police and Fire Department responded to a fire report at the Antigua Air Station Military Base, where the Immigration Detention Centre is housed.

On arrival they met two detention rooms engulfed in flames. Firefighters managed to extinguish the flames, averting further damage to existing buildings.

The accused, who was detained by the Immigration Department inside one of



the units, was treated for smoke inhalation and minor injuries.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Bail was denied as De Los Santos is considered a flight risk.

Antigua and Barbuda Delegates Champion Global Tourism and Sustainability Training in China



Tourism Delegation in China



Ministry of Tourism Staff

Antigua and Barbuda continues to demonstrate its leadership in tourism development and environmental stewardship, as a team of national delegates participate in two prestigious training programmes currently taking place in the People's Republic of China.

The Executive Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI), Raynel Carroll, together with Shawn Benjamin, Community Relations Officer within the Ministry of Tourism, are representing the country at the 2025 China (Yantai) Island Nations Vocational Training Program on Tourism Management, hosted at Yantai Vocational College. This programme delivers advanced instruction on global tourism management strategies, destination marketing, sustainability frameworks, and community-driven development practices, areas that will directly enrich Antigua and Barbuda's thriving hospitality sector.

At the same time, four others - Faye Shantia Weatherill, Camesha Joseph, Kerissa James, and Shakila Francis, are actively engaged in the Seminar on Green Economy and Environmental Protection for Developing Countries in Beijing. Organized by the Ministry



Raynel Carroll and Shawn Benjamin

of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the National Academy of Forestry and Grassland Administration, this seminar focuses on pioneering eco-friendly practices, environmental conservation strategies, and sustainable development models that are particularly vital for small island developing states like Antigua and Barbuda.

The knowledge and practical insights gained from these programmes will not only strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's human resource capacity but also help to build resilience, advance sustainable growth, and maintain the nation's competitive edge in the global tourism industry.

Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernan-

dez, hailed the participation of the delegates, noting that their involvement reflects the Government's continued commitment to investing in its people and equipping them with the skills to drive innovation and sustainability across sectors.

"The professional development of our people remains central to the future of tourism and national growth," Minister Fernandez stated. "By engaging in these global programmes, our delegates are expanding their expertise and strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's ability to balance world-class tourism development with the highest standards of environmental responsibility. This also reflects our strong and growing partnership with the People's Republic of China, which continues to provide opportunities for knowledge exchange and capacity building."

These initiatives represent a powerful step forward in Antigua and Barbuda's mission to cultivate a skilled workforce, embrace innovative solutions, and safeguard the environment, ensuring that the twin-island state remains at the forefront of sustainable tourism development in the Caribbean and beyond.

MP Fernandez distributes 700 back-to-school packages in St. John's Rural North



MP Fernandez back to school drive



Fernandez back to school distribution

The Member of Parliament for St. John's Rural North, Charles Max Fernandez has spearheaded a back-to-school donation initiative designed to ease the financial burden on families as they prepare for the new academic year. It is the 11th consecutive year, that the representative is making this timely donation to constituents.

Over the weekend and throughout this week, MP Fernandez led the distribution of approximately **700 school bags and essential**

supplies to parents and children across his constituency. The packages included school bags, lunch kits, calculators, geometry sets, flash drives, writing materials, and other necessities to support students' academic readiness.

A member of the constituency team emphasized the significance of the initiative, noting:

"Supplying essential school items not only relieves financial stress for families, but also directly impacts how well-prepared students

are to succeed in their curriculum."

Reflecting on the programme's longevity, MP Fernandez stated:

"For over a decade, we have watched our children grow and excel academically, from preschool and kindergarten to primary and secondary school, and now even college. Distributing these supplies year after year has given my team and me front-row seats to their educational journey, and that tells a special story of our community's commit-

ment."

The St. John's Rural North team emphasizes that equipping children with the tools they need is more than an act of generosity, it is an investment in the future. Studies show that students with proper school supplies perform better academically, develop stronger self-esteem, and cultivate the confidence to reach their full potential. By empowering today's learners, the initiative contributes to building tomorrow's leaders and breaking down barriers that hinder opportunity.



CBF and SIRF delegations meets with Environment Ministry officials

Caribbean Biodiversity Fund and SIRF Fund Engage Environment Ministry officials

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), through its partnership with the Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund, met Thursday with the Environment Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, to discuss critical next steps in advancing conservation financing and climate resilience initiatives for Antigua and Barbuda.

The meeting formed part of the CBF's official mission to Antigua and Barbuda, August 28–29, 2025, aimed at strengthening collaboration on the process of the SIRF Fund transitioning to the National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) for

Antigua and Barbuda. This transition marks a significant milestone in deepening efforts to secure long-term sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation and climate resilience across the twin-island state.

During the engagement, the CBF team highlighted the importance of developing an NGO Window, which will enable civil society organizations and other local stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda to directly access resources dedicated to biodiversity and climate resilience. The initiative builds on strong government support already extended

to the SIRF Fund, reinforcing Antigua and Barbuda's leadership role in sustainable development across the region.

Minister Joseph commended the work of the CBF and SIRF Fund in strengthening national capacity for climate action and reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring that biodiversity protection and climate resilience remain at the forefront of Antigua and Barbuda's development agenda.

Also in attendance were Junior Minister Senator Michael Joseph, Director of the Depart-

ment of Environment, Diann Black-Layne, and Ambassador Ruleta Camacho, and other technicians from the Department of Environment who expressed their support for the partnership and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to advance Antigua and Barbuda's environmental and resilience goals.

The discussions also focused on finalizing partnership arrangements and clarifying next steps regarding Cabinet submissions under consideration, further solidifying the strategic collaboration between the Ministry, the CBF, and the SIRF Fund.

Special Feature

Do You Remember

By Crisiba Destin

Do you remember the first time we met,
At the meeting with mentors and heads, a day we
won't forget?

Our first real day of work came into view,
Knowing some of what to learn, yet surprised by
what was new.

I dived into trade, with policies to read,
Learning how agreements and markets take the lead.

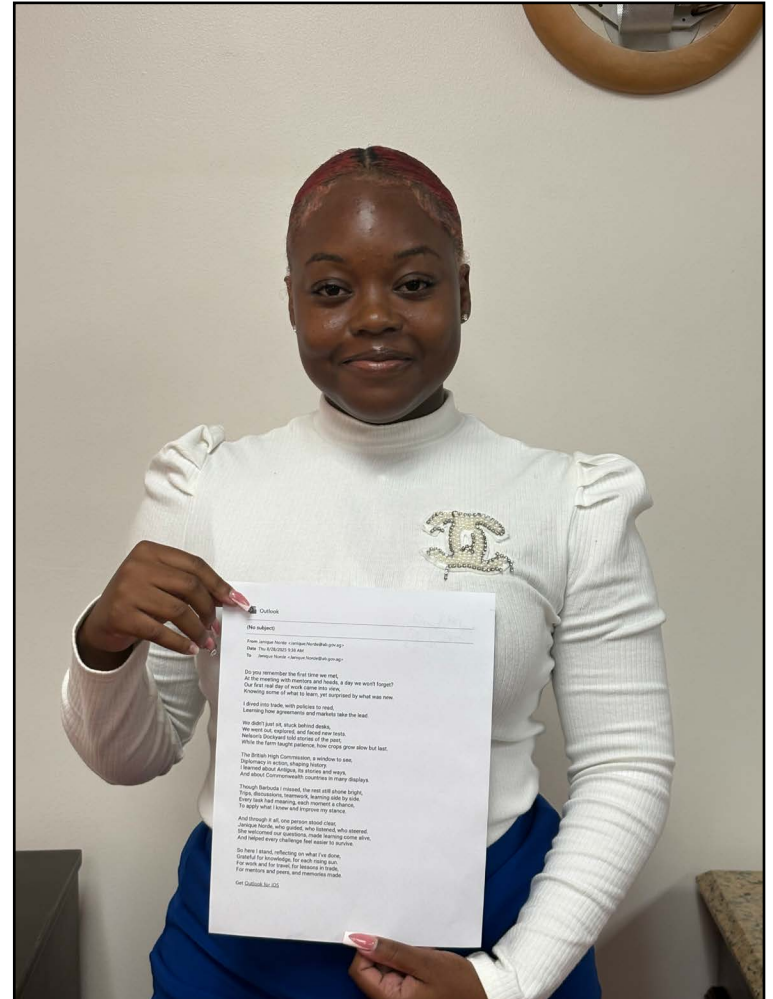
We didn't just sit, stuck behind desks,
We went out, explored, and faced new tests.
Nelson's Dockyard told stories of the past,
While the farm taught patience, how crops grow slow
but last.

The British High Commission, a window to see,
Diplomacy in action, shaping history.

I learned about Antigua, its stories and ways,
And about Commonwealth countries in many displays.

Though Barbuda I missed, the rest still shone bright,
Trips, discussions, teamwork, learning side by side.
Every task had meaning, each moment a chance,
To apply what I knew and improve my stance.

And through it all, one person stood clear,
Janique Norde, who guided, who listened, who
steered.



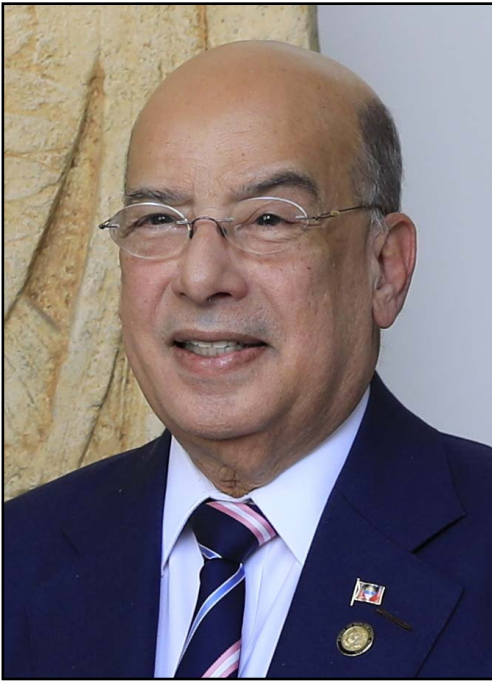
She welcomed our questions, made learning come
alive,
And helped every challenge feel easier to survive.

So here I stand, reflecting on what I've done,
Grateful for knowledge, for each rising sun.
For work and for travel, for lessons in trade,
For mentors and peers, and memories made.

Editor's Note:

Chrisiba was one of several young people who participated in a 6-week internship organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs. At Friday's closing ceremony she delivered the above poem that captured her time with the programme.

Why States should isolate Netanyahu - not antisemitism, world peace



By Sir Ronald Sanders

I am a diplomat with over 40 years of experience. My first instinct is always dialogue: bringing adversaries to a table and building mechanisms that find compromises with which everyone can live. But there are moments when “dialogue” is deliberately prolonged for the advantage of one side, resulting in increased dissatisfaction and greater conflict.

When bombs fall, when aid is throttled, when children starve, a moral and legal line is crossed. This is happening in Gaza – relentlessly – at the hands of the Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

This conclusion has also been reached by fourteen of the fifteen members of the UN Security Council. On 27 August, the fourteen members issued a joint statement

calling the famine in Gaza “man-made,” demanding an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire; the release of all hostages; a surge of aid; and the lifting of restrictions that strangle humanitarian relief.

The facts we cannot wish away

As of 28 August, UN reports place the Palestinian death toll at about 62,895 killed since 7 October 2023, with at least 158,927 injured. These are the figures compiled by the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) from Gaza’s Ministry of Health and used across the UN system; Israel disputes them but has not offered a comprehensive alternative.

On 22 August 2025, the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) declared a famine in Gaza City and surrounding areas, warning it is likely to spread south without a ceasefire and sustained humanitarian access. The World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund underscored this finding. They said that over half a million people are already in famine conditions, with the famine projected to expand within weeks.

Hunger is killing, too. As of late August, Gaza’s health authorities report at least 313 hunger-related deaths, including 119 children; UN situation updates recorded 193 such deaths by 6 August, with a rapid

rise since. Whatever the exact figure on a given day, the direction is unmistakable – upwards.

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has put it plainly, saying: “People are starving. Children are dying. And those with the duty to act are failing.” He also reminded the world that, as the occupying power, Israel’s obligations are unequivocal.

Let me also be equally plain: Hamas is a terrorist organisation. The 7 October 2023 attack on Israel – murder, kidnapping, rape – was a crime. Its continued holding of hostages in inhumane conditions is a standing violation of international law. Nothing in this argument excuses that savagery; the hostages must be released, now.

The law cuts both ways, as confirmed by the International Criminal Court on 21 November 2024, which issued arrest warrants for leaders on both sides.

But Hamas is not a state, Israel is. The Israeli government’s response is no longer merely disproportionate; it is inhumane and increasingly looks like an effort to make a viable Palestinian state impossible. The Economy Minister, Nir Barkat, has repeatedly said: “A Palestinian state will not be established — under no circumstances.”

When words fail, lawful consequences must follow

Several countries have already

moved beyond statements. Bolivia severed relations with Israel on 31 October 2023. Colombia broke ties in May 2024. Nicaragua followed in October 2024. Within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Belize suspended diplomatic relations in November 2023. Others, such as Chile, Honduras, Jordan, Türkiye, South Africa, and Chad, downgraded their relations by recalling ambassadors or cutting political contact. South Africa has gone to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), securing provisional measures and repeatedly returning to press its case that Gaza's civilians must be protected under the Genocide Convention. That is how a state uses law to demand restraint and accountability.

What should nations do—now?

I have thought long and hard about what the rest of the world could do to push the Israeli government to reconsider its military and expansionist policy. While stressing that this is my personal view - not tied in any way to the Government I serve - I have concluded that the following is a course of action that governments worldwide should consider taking: they should either

sever or suspend diplomatic relations with Israel while its wrongful behaviour continues.

In international law, such an action is called "Retorsion" - the term for lawful measures a state may take that don't breach any international obligation. To be clear, diplomatic ties exist only by mutual consent; a state may withdraw that consent at any time. Governments may restore normal relations when the offending government corrects its actions. This lawful act keeps faith with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations while signalling that conduct has consequences.

Children cannot eat communiques, and babies cannot survive malnutrition while governments debate national interests. Some other country's suffering today may be the national interest of others tomorrow. That is why the rule of law must prevail and be respected.

Finally, recognition of Palestine as a State is not enough. Several governments now say they will recognise the State of Palestine at the UN General Assembly in September. These governments are from France, the United Kingdom (conditional), Australia, Canada (con-

ditional), and Malta. However, recognition should now be paired with concrete consequences, including suspension of diplomatic relations that could be lifted when the Israeli government's conduct changes.

Not antisemitism – respect for the rule of law

This would not be an act of antisemitism as detractors might claim. The people of Israel have an inalienable right to a state, security, and prosperity within recognised borders. However, friendship and respect for a people do not mean impunity for a government.

Condemning deliberate starvation, indiscriminate bombardment, or the evisceration of a future Palestinian state is not antisemitism; it is loyalty to the same laws that protect all peoples, including Israelis and Palestinians.

(The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Dean of the OAS Ambassadors accredited to the OAS. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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E-government within the Caribbean



By Andrecia Lewis

The onset of the technological revolution has rapidly impacted society on a macro level and organizations on a micro level. This organizational change is not solely present within private sector organizations. This change also extends itself to the public sector, inclusive of governments. E-government can be described as the process of using technology to facilitate improved service delivery within the public sector. Some examples are: allowing citizens to renew drivers licenses online, online birth certificate registration, the ability to request and receive police records online as well as e-health services. To a large extent, Caribbean governments are moving towards Egovernment as they are becoming increasingly concerned with automation, informatisation and trans-

formation.

Automation involves using technology to accomplish tasks which traditionally required human effort. Examples of automation includes using AI Chat-bots within government ministries to answer questions without a citizen having to interact with an employee. In Trinidad and Tobago entrepreneurs are able to register and pay for business licenses and permits online. Furthermore, they are able to receive stamped business registration approval documents online without having to interact with clerks. Additionally, St. Lucia's DigiGov portal which allows users to register their businesses online and renew licenses and permits online. Due to interoperability, documents are streamlined to the various ministries when uploaded to the portal. This negates the need for citizens to travel from one Ministry to the next to conduct business. Equally important and present within Caribbean territories is informatization.

Informatisation is the process of adopting technologies within the public sector to manage the ways in which information is managed. For example, having the information readily available on an online government portal to inform citizens of the exact documents and procedures needed to apply for a police record. Moreover, being able to access application forms online and complete them in advance. In Jamaica, the Registrar General's department has made a move to digitize millions

of records to include birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates and adoption certificates. Additionally, Antigua and Barbuda's web-based farmers information system also falls under the category of informatisation. The system contains data such as the land use and production history of thousands of farmers within Antigua and Barbuda. The combination of informatization and automation results in transformation.

Transformation is the process of redeveloping the public sector. It results in moving from bureaucratic driven governance to citizen centric governance. This transformation is facilitated by informatization and automation. Using a previous example, informatization within the public sector resembles having a government portal which outlines all documents needed to request a police record; automation takes it a step further. It requires the presence of a digital database within the Ministry and an online portal which can be accessed by citizens to upload the necessary documents. After which the system generates the stamped official output, which is the police record. This entire process is completed digitally, eliminating the need for in-person visits. Transformation occurs as automation and informatization results in governance that is cheaper, governance that does more, governance that is quicker and governance that works better.



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America Oil War in South Caribbean



The world powers' wars in developing countries began with greed for oil and other assets as in Libya, Sudan, Congo, and all of Africa, where the lack of regard for human life is evident. The calm and tropical peace of the Caribbean islands are being threatened by ugly American greed for the newest, largest oil reserves of fossil fuel located in Guyana (Exxon Mobil) and Venezuela (US Foe).

Under the guise of narcotics control, the world's largest consumer of narcotics has sent fearsome military might on ships into the Caribbean, but we

all know that it is Exxon Mobil seeking US expansion and takeover into Venezuela, as authorized by a greedy madman! This bully strategy of the current U.S. has a 'Shower Posse' effect, in that the move impacts every island, especially those whose livelihood is Tourism.

Clearly the US Trump Tariff War is unavoidable as we are a consumer community, weaned onto eating and drinking, wearing and utilizing what we do not produce; this is further endorsed by a backward idea that the tourist requires all foreign food and services. So with the in-

crease in prices, our tourist proffering shows, triggered by fear of military accidents or incidents, can fail to reach projections.

The immediate responses of the Prime Ministers of T&T and Guyana, which appear to endorse US militarization of the Caribbean waters is purely selfish, and could have racial overtones encouraged by exterior influencers. This is not unusual, as dissension among peoples and tribes is an integral part of the destabilization process to fan the flames of warring nations. While the people strive for political and other dominance, en-

gaging local war weapons of destruction by fire and rampage, the Global Fossil Fuel Wars continue unabated all over the world, covered by fake news and propaganda!

So will CARICOM allow the Fake Narcotics Propaganda to be accepted, and join the renegade oil producing countries in the community in supporting the U.S. takeover of our oil by military intervention. Will we allow the Southern Caribbean oil countries to be separated (as was Sudan) split into oil lands for the rich and poverty and death for the people of the Caribbean?

Regional News

Contour Air set to offer routes from Dominica to St Thomas and Puerto Rico in September



American carrier, Contour Airlines is moving into the Caribbean and will begin its aviation schedule from Dominica (DOM)–San Juan (SJU) and Dominica–St Thomas (STT) effective September 24.

This was according to Tourism Minister Denise

Charles-Pemberton during a press statement.

“Fellow Dominicans, exciting news, starting September 24th, Contour Airlines will launch non-stop jet service to Dominica from both St Thomas, USVI and San Juan, Puerto Rico. From St Thomas, three flights week-

ly, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. From San Juan, four flights weekly, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays,” she revealed.

She continued, “Yes, my friends, non-stop service from St Thomas is back and better than before.”

Charles-Pemberton said travelers can fly home for a weekend getaway with comfort and ease on Contour’s modern jets.

“Even better, Contour connects seamlessly with American Airlines and United Airlines,” she said. “So, your bags go straight through when booking online.”

She stated that the government is proud to restore and expand these vital links.

“But we also need you, our Dominican family abroad, to fill those seats and make this service a success,” Charles-Pemberton noted. “This expansion means more flights, more visitors, more opportunities, strengthening family ties, boosting tourism, and opening doors for business and leisure.”

Furthermore, she asserted that Dominica is more connected than ever.

“Come home, stay connected, fly Contour,” she encouraged. (Dominica News Online)



DAILY PROGRAMMING




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LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
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Regional News

PAGE 17

New UN report warns more children in the Caribbean could face poverty due to climate change

A new report by two United Nations agencies warns that climate change could push at least 5.9 million more children and young people in Latin America and the Caribbean into poverty by 2030 unless governments act now.

“Even worse, the number could triple if countries do not meet their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to ensure that climate financing prioritises social and climate resilience services for children,” the report says.

The finding comes in a report by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), published on Thursday in Panama.

The report examines the potential effects of extreme weather events on increasing poverty levels among children and youth, along with national efforts to reduce GHG emissions, as well as strategies to adapt and reduce losses and damage caused by climate change.

The UN said the 5.9 million figure represents the most optimistic scenario.

However, it warned that if governments are slow in implementing actions to address mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage, the number could reach 17.9 million.

Roberto Benes, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, said that children and adolescents bear the greatest burden of climate change

He said their developing bodies are more vulnerable to cyclones, heatwaves and other extreme phenomena, “which, at the same time, disrupt



their families’ livelihoods and their education.

“If children and young people don’t have the resources to meet their basic needs and develop their potential, and if adequate social protection systems are not in place, the region’s inequalities will only be perpetuated,” Benes said.

Yet, despite their vulnerability, the UN said climate finance does not prioritise the resilient services for health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation that children and young people need “to ensure their optimal cognitive and physical development.

The report say that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, only 3.4 per cent of all multilateral climate finance is dedicated to children.

“This is happening at a time of funding cuts and reduced development aid amid unprecedented needs,” says the report, recommending that re-

gional governments take action, including by strengthening the climate resilience of social services and critical infrastructure, to better protect children and youth, with a particular focus on the first 1,000 days of life.

The report urges authorities to increase child-sensitive climate policy financing, with actions that specifically target the needs of children at different ages.

“They also must promote greater climate awareness, education, empowerment and participation of children and youth,” the report says. “Additionally, environmental and climate education should be included in school curricula and educational programmes.”

The report further recommends that countries promote adaptive social protection and emergency response policies that account for the specific needs of children and adolescents. (CMC)

Regional News

Police in Haiti regain control of key telecom hub seized by gangs



Police in Haiti announced Tuesday that they regained control of a critical telecommunications hub that heavily armed gangs had seized last week, briefly disrupting air traffic and internet connections.

The takeover was a rare success for Haitian authorities and a UN-backed mission led by Kenyan police that have struggled to push back powerful gangs seeking full control of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The police operation at the Téléco site in the once peaceful community of Kenscoff began before dawn on Monday and lasted about two hours, according to Michel-Ange Louis Jeune, spokesperson for Haiti's National Police.

"This is a strong message that the new police chief sent," he said, referring to André Jonas Vladimir Paraison, who was appointed to the post earlier this month.

Jeune did not take questions during the news conference and did not say how many people, if any, were killed

during the operation.

He said police found numerous guns, including automatic weapons with scratched-out serial numbers, and more than 1,000 bullets.

"When the population is sleeping, the police are not sleeping. They are working to ensure that people can sleep," he said.

Last week, gangs filmed themselves taking over the Téléco site, telling the government it had less than a week to start negotiations. The person in the video did not say what, if anything, the gangs were demanding.

"You see, this is not a rumour. I am in Téléco," a gang member who goes by the name of Didi says in the video. "If I don't receive any calls from you guys, I'm going to get my clan to come burn the whole system now, and there won't be any communications."

In another video, one gang member is seen apparently switching off multiple buttons on a large server and using a screwdriver to disassemble another

server as the room he's in stops humming. He later stacks several motherboards outside and films them as he says, "I'm taking everything."

Two days after the takeover, Haiti's civil aviation agency condemned the action but noted that it only caused minor disruptions since it was able to implement certain measures to circumvent the crisis.

The attack was blamed on Viv Ansanm, a powerful gang federation that struck other key government infrastructure last year and was designated as a foreign terror organization by the US earlier this year.

Early last year, gunmen forced Haiti's main international airport to close for nearly three months and raided the country's two biggest prisons, releasing some 4,000 inmates.

In the video where gunmen raided Téléco last week, Didi called on the government to hand out bullets to police so they could come and go after gang members.

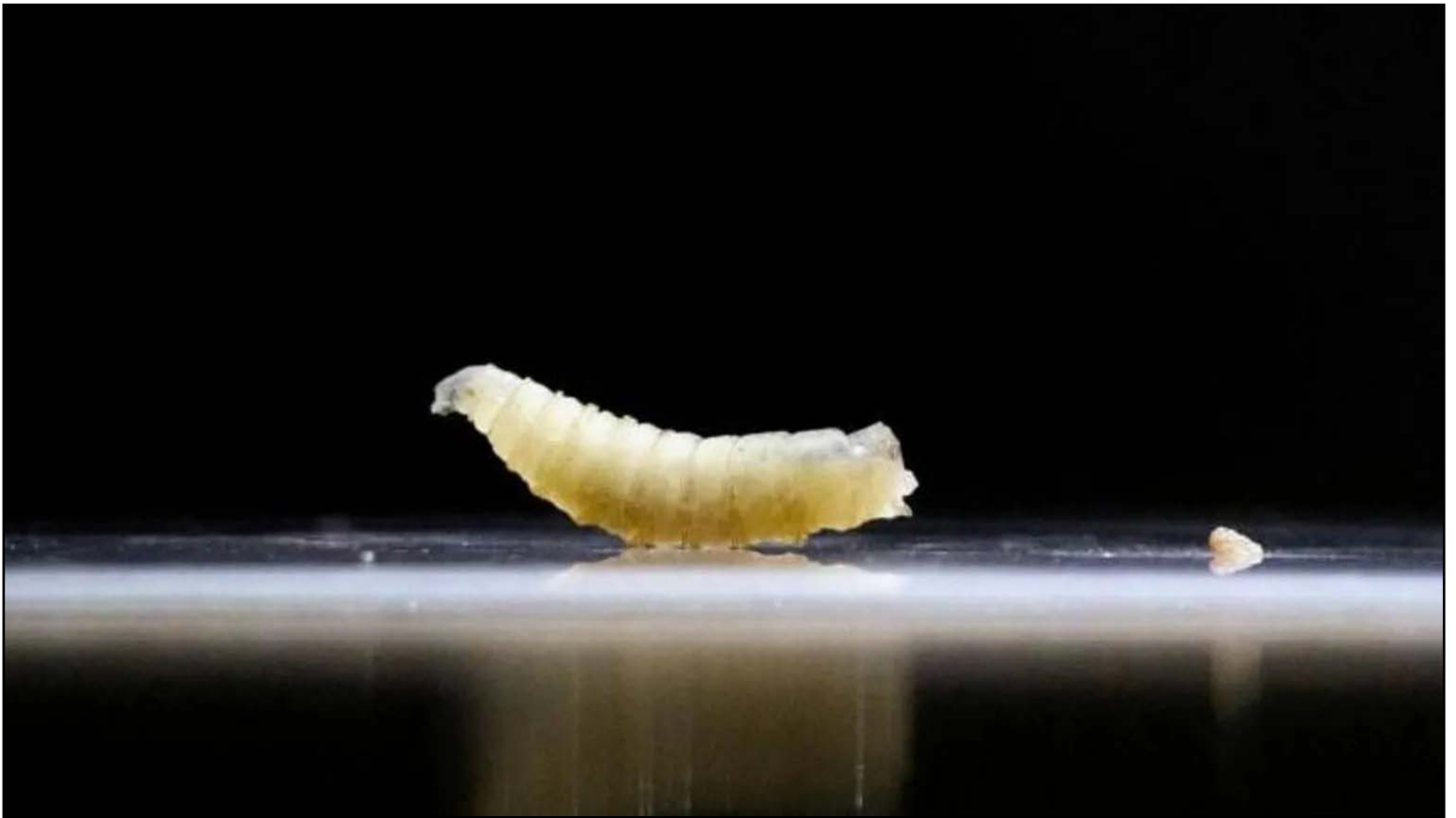
Godfrey Otunge, the Kenyan commander of the multinational force in Haiti, was present at Tuesday's news conference but spoke only briefly.

"Be patient; you will see results," he said as the police spokesperson promised similar raids in other gang-controlled areas.

Téléco is located in the same community as an orphanage that gangs raided earlier this month. They kidnapped eight people, including an Irish missionary and a 3-year-old child, who remain missing.

Gangs are estimated to control about 90% of Port-au-Prince, and they have repeatedly attacked Kenscoff this year to try and take over the area. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Cases of flesh-eating screwworm on the rise in Mexico



The number of animals infested with New World screwworm (NWS), a flesh-eating parasite, has risen by 53% in the four weeks to mid-August, Mexican government data reveals.

While infestations by the fly larvae primarily affect cattle, Mexican officials also registered cases in dogs, horses, sheep – and humans.

According to local media, dozens of people have been treated for the infestation in hospitals in the southern Mexican states of Campeche and Chiapas.

The rise in affected animals in Mexico comes just days after US health authorities said that they had confirmed the first human case in a patient who had returned to the US from El Salvador.

NWS was declared eradicated in the US in 1966 after sterile male flies were released to disrupt the insects' reproductive cycle, and Mexico followed suit in 1991.

However, it has remained common in tropical and subtropical areas of Central and South America and has recently been spreading north with the first new case reported in Mexico in November 2024.

Female New World screwworm flies (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) lay their eggs in or near open wounds on the skin of warm-blooded animals. They are also attracted to the mucous membranes, such as those in the nose, mouth, eyelids, ears and genitals.

The eggs hatch into mag-

gots which burrow into the wound or the membrane, feeding on the living flesh.

The infestation is called myiasis and, if left untreated, can cause serious damage – and can even prove fatal – as the larvae tear into the tissue with sharp mouth hooks.

Health officials warn that while fatal cases in humans are rare, people with pre-existing health issues and the elderly should take extra care.

Mexico's health ministry said an 86-year-old woman had died in Campeche state in July from skin cancer which had been exacerbated by an infestation of screwworm larvae.

Those most at risk are people working with livestock

or those living in rural areas where infested livestock are present.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges people who may have visited a region where screwworm flies are present to be alert to the symptoms. These include unexplained skin lesions, feeling larvae move within a wound or the nose, mouth or eyes and seeing maggots in an open sore.

Experts point out that prevention is key when visiting rural areas in affected regions, which includes keeping any open wounds clean and covered, and using an insect repellent.

They also ask people who suspect they may have been infested to seek medical help. (BBC)

Woman says Zou raped her hours before other attack



Two women who reported being drugged and raped by prolific sex offender Zhenhao Zou said they were attacked within 24 hours of each other, the BBC has established.

The first woman who says she was raped told us she was shocked to learn about the second attack and had since felt guilt for not reporting her rape sooner.

Metropolitan Police detectives investigating Zou's offences initially questioned whether the two women might be the same person, because the two attacks sounded identical and happened in such a short space of time.

This timing showed Zou was confident, a source familiar with the investigation told the BBC World Service. "He was getting away with it, so he wanted to do it more and more," they said.

Zou was sentenced to life in prison, with a minimum term of 24 years, in June.

The Chinese national was convicted for drugging and raping 10 women - three in the UK and seven in China - between September 2019 and May 2023. All victims appear to have been Chinese.

But after his trial, detectives - having described Zou as one of the UK's

"most prolific predators" - said they feared he may have attacked 50 more women.

Since Zou's trial, 24 women have come forward in both the UK and China, including the victims of these two attacks.

The first woman, whom we are calling Rachel, says she met Zou for drinks in late October 2022. He drove her to his waterside villa in Zhupingsha village, near the Chinese city of Dongguan, where he gave her a whisky cocktail that left her so dizzy that she says she could barely move. After she lay down upstairs to recover, she says he raped her.

Phone records and messages shared with the BBC reveal Rachel had tried to call a friend for help afterwards, but Zou had grabbed her phone from her and spoke to the friend himself.

Zou did not return Rachel's phone to her until the following afternoon. In a series of frantic messages on the Chinese app WeChat, Rachel told her friend she was still in Zou's house and asked why she hadn't been able to come and get her.

Her friend explained that she had heard Rachel crying out for help on the phone, but that Zou wouldn't reveal his address.

"My friend was afraid that if she kept asking, he'd go to extremes and hurt me," Rachel later told the BBC. She says Zou ended up dropping her home just before 14:00. "The man treated me as a toy," she said.

Rachel said she didn't report her rape to police in China because she feared she did not have sufficient evidence and was worried about people finding out.

We do not know exactly what else was in the cocktail that Rachel drank, but when UK police raided Zou's London apartment they found a substance which converts into the date-rape drug GHB in the body.

The substance is a controlled drug the UK, but can be easily bought without a prescription in China to treat insomnia, where it costs as little as \$3 (£2.22) per 500ml, the BBC has found.

Zou had also repeatedly searched online for information around a sleeping drug that is banned in the UK but available on prescription in China, according to evidence shown at his trial.

A screenshot of WeChat messages circulating among Zou's former classmates, seen by the BBC, shows Zou had begun researching prescription sleeping pills in China in January 2020, asking a friend there if he knew anyone who had been prescribed them from whom he could "buy from directly".

The second victim who was attacked on the same day in October 2022 is referred to as Female D, because her identity was not known to UK police at the time of Zou's trial. He was, however, convicted of raping her using video evidence from his devices. She contacted UK police shortly after his trial ended in March 2025, having learned of his conviction.

Through documents shown at his trial, we have established that Zou met Female D for a date just a few hours after he had driven Rachel home. He

drugged and raped her, filming the attack. In a victim impact statement read at Zou's sentencing in June, Female D said that she had been unable to escape until 04:00 the following day.

Rachel - the first victim from late October 2022 - also decided to report her experiences to the Met Police in March 2025. With the help of an independent translator, she submitted an anonymous statement over email.

Responding to her report, a police officer sought more information on Rachel's identity, saying it "seemed we may have already had contact with this person" and that the account sounded "very much identical to one we already have from this time period".

Rachel said she clarified that she had never reported the case to Chinese or British police.

The BBC has verified that initials shared by the Met in the correspondence to check Rachel's identity with her, in fact belonged to Female D.

Zou studied in Queen's University in Belfast from 2017, before heading to London in 2019 to do a master's degree and then a PhD at UCL.

The Met Police is still calling for victims to come forward by contacting survivors@met.police.uk. It told us its investigation into Zou continues, including liaising with the Crown Prosecution Service around potential further charges.

Det Ch Insp Tariq Farooqi said: "The scale of his offending – which spanned two continents – makes him one of the most dangerous sexual offenders the Met has ever brought to justice."

In her victim impact statement, Female D said she had been haunted by nightmares after the attack and "couldn't be alone after dark".

Rachel says she feels if she had called the police the next day, Female D might not have become a victim. "I know everyone will say this is his fault, not mine, but I still feel sorry."

Since his conviction, former school-friends of Zou in China have revealed how he asked them for advice about assembling spy cameras that may have helped him keep a record of his crimes - including just before UK police first arrested him.

A series of messages, shared with the BBC, appear to show Zou asking one friend for advice about building mini cameras on 21 December 2023. Documents submitted to court during Zou's trial show he searched online for "hidden camera" and "electric alarm clock camera" on the same day and made purchases on eBay of surveillance equipment.

Zou messaged the same friend once again on 17 January 2024.

He was arrested by police seven days later.

During a search of his London apartment, police later found a spy camera in a box alongside a memory card containing video evidence of his rapes. (BBC)



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Minneapolis mourns two children killed in shooting - here's what we know



Two children have been killed in a shooting at a Catholic school in Minneapolis which has left more than a dozen people injured.

The attack happened on Wednesday morning at Annunciation Church where children were attending a worship service during their first week of school.

The shooter died at the scene of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The FBI is investigating the incident as an “act of domestic terrorism and hate crime targeting Catholics.”

Here's what we know about what happened.

The attacker has been identified as 23-year-old Robin Westman, from suburban Minneapolis. The motive is currently unknown.

The attacker - described as being

dressed in all black - approached the side of the church, which also houses a school, and fired dozens of shots through the windows using three firearms.

Officials are investigating whether the suspect shot inside the building or if all the shots came from outside the church, noting that no casings from bullets were found inside.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said the attacker did not have an “extensive known criminal history” and acted alone.

Police did find a “manifesto” the suspect timed to publish on YouTube at the time of the shooting. The FBI assisted officials and took it down.

The attacker's mother, Mary Grace Westman, previously worked at the school, according to a school newsletter from 2016. A post on Facebook

says she retired from the role in 2021.

Westman's name was legally changed from Robert to Robin in 2020, Minnesota court records show. In the application the judge wrote: “Minor child identifies as a female and wants her name to reflect that identification.”

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey pushed back against hatred directed towards the transgender community in the wake of the attack.

In their own updates, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Westman was a “man, claiming to be transgender”, and in his post on X, FBI Director Kash Patel referred to Westman as “a male”.

BBC Verify has reviewed two videos on the YouTube account associated with Westman, before the account was closed.

One of them featured notebooks which suggest extensive planning before the shooting.

One page, titled “Annunciation from memory” in Cyrillic, includes a rough sketch of the layout of a church, which Westman points to before stabbing the sketch with a knife.

One of the notes, also largely written in Cyrillic letters, starts by saying that “things are moving swiftly into place” and that Westman is “feeling good about Annunciation” because it is a “good combo of easy attack for me and devastating tragedy”.

The suspect lists a series of options for the attack, including during breaktime at a school or a Christmas concert at a church.

These notes are dated to late July, indicating that Westman had been preparing for this attack for more than a month.

There are also a number of guns, bullets and magazines filmed in what appears to be a bedroom.

A racist and an antisemitic message, as well as a message calling for the killing of US President Donald Trump, are written on the ammunition and guns.

Two children, aged eight and 10, were killed. Seventeen people were also injured, 14 of whom are children.

The three adults who were injured were all parishioners in their 80s, O’Hara said.

Thomas Wyatt, chairman of emergency medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center, said seven children aged between six and 14 years old were brought to his department and were in critical condition, with four needing surgery.

Non-critical patients were taken to other hospitals.

All injured victims are expected to survive, officials said.

“Our hearts are broken for the families who have lost their children”, as well as for the young lives “fighting to recover” and for “the entire community that has been so deeply traumatised by this senseless attack”, O’Hara also said.

A 10-year-old boy who survived the attack told CBS affiliate WCCO that his friend saved him from bullets by lying on top of him.

“I was like two seats away from the

stained glass window,” he said. “My friend, Victor, saved me though, because he laid on top of me, but he got hit.”

“My friend got hit in the back, he went to the hospital... I was super scared for him but I think now he’s okay,” he said.

Annunciation Catholic Church and its faith-based school is for students from preschool (nursery-level) up to Grade 8 (aged 14 years old), according to its website.

It is located in a residential area of southern Minneapolis.

The Catholic school’s approach to teaching is one of faith-based learning.

The school added that religion “compels” it to engage with its local community. It also has a sister school in Haiti.

Principal Matt DeBoer spoke at a press conference on Wednesday and began his remarks by saying “I love you, I’m so sorry this happened today”.

He thanked well-wishers for their thoughts and prayers and asked people to “pray with our feet” to take action against future shootings. (BBC)



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Sports News

Antiguans suffer second loss at Men's Pan American Cup

Antigua and Barbuda suffered their second loss at the 18th Senior Men's Pan American Volleyball Cup at Domo de la Feria in León, Guanajuato, Mexico, on Wednesday.

After going under 3-0 to Cuba on Tuesday's opening day of the 12-team tournament, Antigua and Barbuda were beaten 3-0 (25-12, 25-11, 25-17) by the United States of America (USA), who claimed their first win in Pool A. The Americans lost 3-0 to Venezuela in their opening encounter on Tuesday.

The USA, with a 1-1 record, will close pool play against Cuba, while Antigua and Barbuda (0-2) will face Venezuela in their final round-robin match in Pool A.

The top teams in each of the three preliminary groups will have to wait until the results are complete to learn if they advance directly to the semi-finals or if they will go through the quarter-finals alongside the second-place finishers in each pool.

The USA sealed the win with an advantage in every skill, prevailing 43-20 in attacks, 5-2 in blocks, and 8-1 in service aces. The Americans committed a similar number of errors, with the United States with 19 and Antigua and Barbuda with 17.

Kaleb Jenness of the USA was the only player with double digits, with 14 points, as the USA used all their players.



Players of Antigua and Barbuda (white and black uniform) attempt to block an attack by the USA during their second match in Group A at the Senior Men's Pan American Volleyball Cup at Domo de la Feria in León, Guanajuato, Mexico, on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. (ABAVA)

Kaleb Jenness said after the win, "It was a really good comeback after Tuesday's loss. We had a lot of talking going on, and we really wanted to play a good, solid match, and I thought we did that."

"I am very proud of our team and our coaches. Tomorrow we play Cuba, we're going to do the same things we did today, keep that high level of volleyball, keep our communication going, and just be really good at first contact – our passing and our receiving – and make the little stuff really good."

Cairon Davis of Antigua and Barbuda expressed, "Today we started off a little bit slow, but overall, it was good. We started to pick up

during the match; it's still a work in progress. We were more confident today and more organized."

Venezuela earned a solid 3-0 (25-23, 25-17, 25-21) victory over Cuba to remain perfect in Pool A with a 2-0 record, while Cuba drops to 1-1.

Colombia defeated Puerto Rico 3-1 (18-25, 25-18, 25-18, 25-20) to remain unbeaten with their second win in Pool B.

Defending champions Canada had to work hard to overcome Guatemala 3-1 (26-24, 25-19, 26-28, 25-19) and remain unbeaten with their second win in as many games in Pool B. Puerto Rico and Guatemala are still searching for their first win.

Mexico defeated the Dominican Republic 3-0 (25-20, 25-19, 25-19) to earn their second straight-set victory in Pool C.

Chile also kept their perfect record at the 18th Senior Men's Pan American Volleyball Cup, defeating Suriname in straight sets 3-0 (25-15, 25-13, 25-14) in the other Pool C encounter on Wednesday.

All 12 teams were slated to play their final match in round-robin pool play on Thursday. The two best pool winners will move directly into the semi-finals.

The other pool winner will contest the quarter-finals along with the second-place finishers in each of the three round-robin pools.

Antiguans suffer 2nd straight loss at ECCB International Netball Series



Players of Antigua and Barbuda (yellow and black uniform) and Grenada compete during their match at the ECCB International Netball Series at the Tanteen Sports Complex in St. George's, Grenada, on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. (ECCB)

Antigua and Barbuda suffered their second straight loss at the Fifth Annual Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series at the Tanteen Sports Complex in Grenada on Wednesday.

The Antiguan, whose three-match unbeaten run at the start of the 10-team round-robin tournament was ended in a 33-45 loss to St. Lucia in their fourth game on Tuesday, slumped to their second consecutive defeat in a 36-63 drubbing at the hands of host Grenada in their fifth encounter.

It was the fourth win in five matches for the Grenadians, whose only loss is a 60-68 defeat against guest team Barbados.

After their opening game against

Guyana was stopped due to rain, defending champions St. Vincent and the Grenadines claimed their fourth win in a row with a 63-53 victory against guest team Barbados.

It was the first loss for the Bajan women after securing wins in their first two encounters.

After their opening match against Montserrat was stopped by rain, St. Lucia notched up their third consecutive win with a 70-21 drubbing of Anguilla. The Anguillians have lost four of their five matches so far.

The guest team, the Cayman Islands, notched up their third consecutive win in four matches with a 58-43 victory against the Commonwealth of Dominica on Thursday morning.

It was the fourth loss in five matches for the Commonwealth of Dominica, who finally recorded their first win at this year's tournament with a 62-20 drubbing of Montserrat on Wednesday. It was the fourth loss in a row for the Montserratians.

However, Montserrat claimed their first win in five matches by snatching a narrow 37-34 victory against guest team Guyana in the most keenly contested affair of the entire tournament on Thursday morning.

The result ensures the Guyanese remain the only team that is yet to record a win at this year's ECCB International Netball Series after suffering their fourth loss in a row.

PSG to face Bayern and Barcelona in Champions League opening stage



From left: Former soccer star Zlatan Ibrahimovic, UEFA Deputy General Secretary Giorgio Marchetti and former Brazilian player Kaka attend the Champions League soccer league phase draw in Monaco, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025. (AP)

MONACO (Reuters) - Champions League holders Paris St. Germain will play Bayern Munich and Barcelona in this season's league phase while record 15-times winners Real Madrid will face Manchester City and Liverpool after Thursday's draw set up some blockbuster encounters.

PSG will also meet Premier League sides Tottenham Hotspur and Newcastle United along with Atalanta and Bayer Leverkusen in the new league phase format which started last season, where each club plays eight games -- four at home and four on the road.

Real Madrid will play Manchester City again for a

fifth consecutive season and make a trip to Liverpool in what will be a homecoming for Trent Alexander-Arnold, the English fullback who left Anfield to join Real in the close season.

Real also take on Juventus at home while they have a long flight to Eastern Europe in store when they take on Kazakhstan side Kairat Almaty, who stunned Celtic in the playoffs to qualify for the first time.

Last season's league phase table toppers Liverpool will also face Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt, while Bayern play Chelsea, Arsenal and Club Brugge.

Pep Guardiola's City host

Dortmund, Leverkusen and Napoli while they make two trips to Spain to face Real and Villarreal.

Last season's runners-up Inter Milan host Liverpool and Arsenal, and the Italian side will travel to Borussia Dortmund and Atletico Madrid.

Barcelona, LaLiga champions and last year's semi-finalists, host PSG and face away games at Chelsea and Newcastle.

Arsenal, semi-finalists last season, also play Atletico Madrid and Club Brugge but their biggest opponents are Bayern, who they have faced 14 times in the competition. They have also failed to beat the German

side in the last five encounters.

The Premier League has the most representatives with six clubs after last season's top five -- Liverpool, Arsenal, City, Chelsea and Newcastle -- qualified along with Europa League winners Tottenham.

Spurs will play Borussia Dortmund and Villarreal as well as PSG while Serie A champions Napoli face Chelsea, Man City, Frankfurt and Benfica.

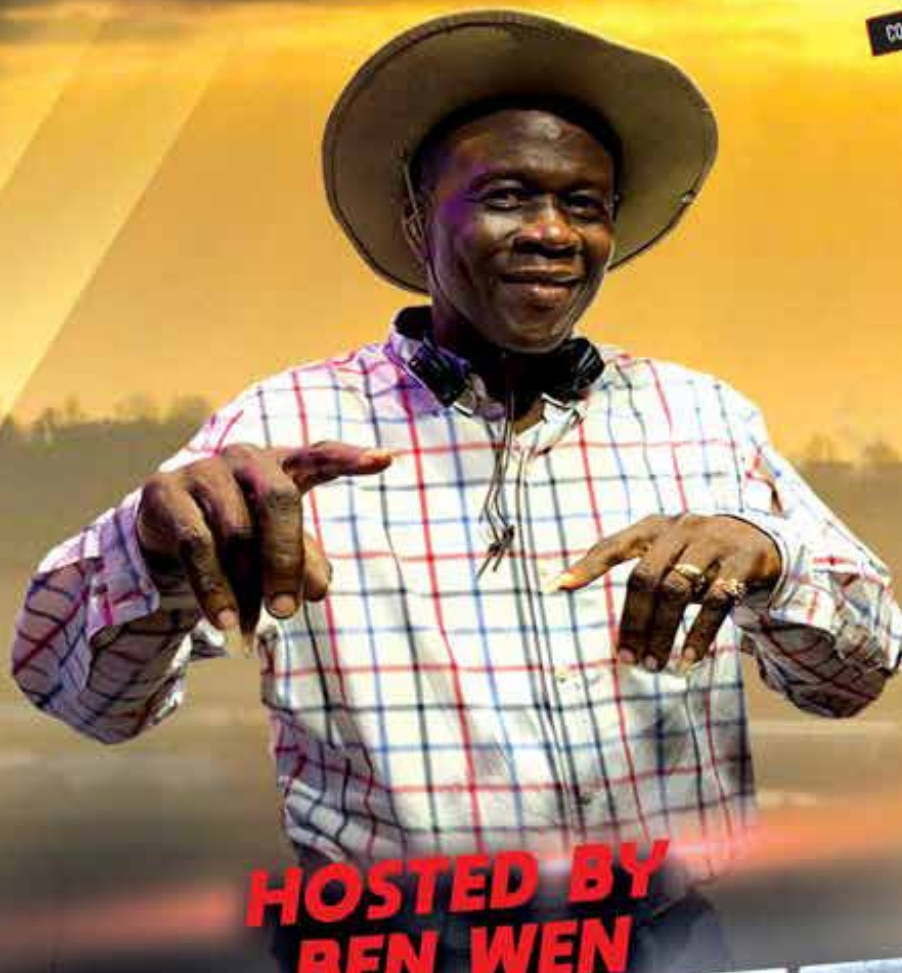
Newcastle returned to the Champions League but have a tough path to the knockout phase after they were placed in pot four, drawing Barca, PSG, Benfica and Leverkusen among the teams they will face.

The league phase gets underway with the 36 teams playing on eight matchdays between September 16 and January 28. The knockout phase begins in February while the final will be played on May 30 at the Puskas Arena in Budapest.

Chelsea were honoured with a special award for becoming the first club to win the Champions League, the Europa League, the Conference League, the Super Cup and the now-defunct UEFA Cup Winners' Cup.

Former Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was named the winner of the UEFA President's Award.

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Sports News

Swiss prosecutors end 10-year FIFA case against Blatter and Platini



Michel Platini looks up after being freed, outside the French police anti-corruption and financial crimes office in Nanterre, outside Paris, June 19, 2019. (AP)

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Swiss federal prosecutors finally ended their case against former FIFA president Sepp Blatter and former UEFA president Michel Platini on Thursday after 10 years and acquittals after two trials.

The office of Switzerland's attorney general said it would not appeal against acquittals for both men in March at an appeal court.

The first trial was in 2012 on charges of fraud, forgery, mismanagement and misappropriation of more than US\$2 million of FIFA money in 2011.

Both men denied wrongdoing and claimed it was delayed payment for contracted work done as a FIFA advisor during Blatter's first term as presi-

dent through 2002.

"Following the failure of the criminal proceedings, the defense will now analyze how to take legal action against those responsible for initiating the proceedings," Platini's lawyer, Dominic Nellen, said in a statement.

The payment of FIFA money to France soccer great Platini emerged in 2015 during federal investigations of the governing body and international soccer officials by federal investigators in the United States and Switzerland.

The allegations were not proven in court but led to both men being removed from office. In the following elections in 2016, Gianni Infantino be-

came FIFA president and Aleksander Ceferin became UEFA president.

"Among other things, the criminal proceedings prevented (Platini's) election as FIFA president in 2016," his lawyer Nellen said.

"The criminal proceedings had not only legal but also massive personal and professional consequences for Michel Platini — even though no incriminating evidence was ever presented."

Swiss prosecutors said on Thursday that by accepting the appeal court verdicts, it is "closing another chapter in the complex procedures related to football."



Antigua and Barbuda Falcons batsman Jewel Andrew, left, plays an attacking shot during the CPL match against the Trinbago Knight Riders at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

Con't from page 30
maiden.

The visitors then lost four wickets without adding to the score to go from 71 for two to 71 for six, thanks in part to Andre Russell taking two wickets without conceding a run in the second double-wicket maiden of the Falcons' innings.

Pakistani duo Imad Wasim and Usama Mir staged a recovery with a partnership of 64, which brought the Falcons back into the contest with a respectable score.

While the knock from Imad was hugely important in keeping the Falcons in this game, he left the field injured and took no further part in the contest, which will be a major concern for the Falcons, who will have to worry over the availability of a key player and their captain.

A steady power-play saw the Knight Riders reach 42 for one, with Colin Munro, who made nine, the only wicket to fall. A partnership of 87 between Kacey Carty and Alex Hales took

any remaining drama out of the contest as the two right-handers calmly put their team in complete control.

There were a few chances to break the second wicket stand, not least when Andries Gous missed a stumping off the bowling of Karima Gore when Hales was on 33. The stand was eventually broken when Carty was dismissed by pacer Jayden Seales.

Hales passed fifty from 44 balls, but it was Knight Riders' captain Nicholas Pooran, who finished un-

beaten on 23 off 11 balls, who sealed the victory with a big six as the home side ran out winners in the penultimate over of the match.

The Falcons will take on the defending champions, St. Lucia Kings, at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet on Sunday, while the Knight Riders will host the Barbados Royals at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Friday before clashing with the Guyana Amazon Warriors at the same venue on Saturday.

Falcons lose to Knight Riders in CPL



Trinbago Knight Riders fast bowler Mohammad Amir, second right, celebrate with team-mates after claiming a wicket against the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons during their CPL match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons suffered their third loss in seven matches in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) in Trinidad on Wednesday night.

The 14th match of the CPL saw the Trinbago Knight Riders secure an eight-wicket victory over the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons in their first home game of the season at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba.

A superb bowling display followed by half-centuries from Alex Hales and Kacey Carty was enough to set up the win and see the Knight Riders move to second place with six points, one behind the Falcons, who remain at the top of the six-team standings.

The Falcons struggled to 147 for seven off their 20 overs after being sent in to bat. Carty slammed 60 off 45 balls, including four fours and two sixes, and

Hales hit an unbeaten 55 off 46 balls, with six boundaries, as the Trinbago Knight Riders coasted to their third win in four matches by scoring 152 for two with eight balls to spare.

Opener Jewel Andrew top-scored for the Falcons with 40 off 31 balls, including three fours and two sixes. Captain Imad Wasim struck an unbeaten 37 off 25 balls, and fellow Pakistani Usama Mir chipped in with 34 off 26 balls, including

three sixes and two fours.

Player of the match and fast bowler Mohammad Amir grabbed three for 22, medium pacer Andre Russell claimed two for 23, and left-arm spinner Akeal Hosen picked up two for 25.

The Falcons were two wickets down in the first over after Mohammad Amir dismissed both Rahkeem Cornwall and Karima Gore for ducks as he started the game with a double-wicket

Con't on page 29