

Call for Greater Participation in National Day of Prayer

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Hundreds of people braved the sweltering heat yesterday to participate in the March of Witness, which formed part of the National Day of Prayer. The day's activities concluded with a prayer service at Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

PM Browne wants greater involvement in National Day of Prayer



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has called for greater participation on the part of citizens and residents in the annual National Day of Prayer.

Addressing those gathered at Antigua Recreation Ground at the end of the day's proceedings, Mr. Browne affirmed that next year's event "will be bigger and better" and said more people must become involved.

"I want to appeal to every citizen. Come next year God's willing that you find yourselves as part of these celebrations. Just as how you participate in Carnival, One Nation and other events, I say to you that this National Day of Prayer is

quintessential and that we should all gather to give thanks and praise."

The prime minister views the annual event as a conduit through which peace and solidarity can be promoted, which will contribute significantly to Antigua and Barbuda's advancement.

Mr. Browne acknowledged the rights of residents to support whatever political party they choose. However, he was quick to add that such positions should not prevent people from coming together to give thanks and to work in unity, in the interest of national development. Both government and opposition officials participat-



ed in Thursday's March of Witness through the streets of Saint John's and the prayer service that followed at ARG.

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda agreed to make the second Thursday in September a public holiday annually, to allow for a National Day of Prayer. The event was first held in 2024, in response to rising crime and violence in the country.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said since then, they have witnessed a noticeable decline in criminal activities.

"I'm pleased to report to you that already, we have seen a 20 per cent reduction... that is why we must always give

thanks."

When the National Day of Prayer was observed for the first time last year, offices and businesses closed at noon to allow their employees to attend the planned march and service that followed. But the organisers reported minimal participation, prompting the government to review a proposal to declare the day a public holiday, which was subsequently approved.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has commended the organisers and participants of the National Day of Prayer, including spiritual leaders, who continue to lift up the nation and its people in prayers.

PAHO to launch initiative targeting rising suicide rates in Americas

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment, and Civil Service Affairs, with support from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), recently hosted consultations and workshops with journalists and media professionals in Antigua and Barbuda on the responsible reporting of suicide. The sessions aimed to reduce stigma, promote sensitivity in coverage, and strengthen the role of media in suicide prevention.

Now, PAHO — which sponsored the local sessions — is launching a major new initiative to address the rising rates of suicide across the Americas. The region is the only one in the world where suicide rates have increased in the past two decades, climbing 17% since 2000. In 2021 alone, more than 100,000 people across the Americas died by suicide, with the Caribbean reporting the region's highest mortality rates.

“Each suicide is a profound tragedy that impacts individuals, families, and communities,” said PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa. “This initiative seeks to transform leadership, governance, and suicide prevention actions to reduce these losses.”

The new PAHO program will:

Help countries design or update national suicide prevention strategies.

Expand access to mental health care, including training health workers and supporting families.

Promote awareness campaigns and work with media to encourage responsible reporting.

Local Participation in Regional Dialogue

People in Antigua and Barbuda will also be able to participate in PAHO's upcoming webinar, “Shaping Responsible Communications to Raise Awareness on Suicide Prevention in the Americas”, hosted with the University of Toronto on September 18.



PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa.

The event will focus on responsible reporting and stigma-reducing awareness campaigns, complementing the Ministry's recent workshops.

Suicide disproportionately affects old-

er adults, though women and younger populations are showing sharp increases. Suicide attempts are nearly five times more common among women, and while men face higher overall rates, women's suicide rates have risen 23% since 2000.

Renato Oliveira De Souza, Chief of PAHO's Mental Health and Substance Use Unit, emphasized that prevention requires more than health system responses. “This crisis demands action beyond health systems. It requires collaboration across society to design and implement strategies that can reduce suicide mortality.”

With PAHO's regional initiative now reinforcing the Ministry's local work, Antigua and Barbuda is positioned to strengthen its role in suicide prevention and shift the conversation on mental health toward openness, awareness, and support.



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Local News

Members of the Diplomatic Community participate in Immigration Seminar



Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams at the Immigration Seminar



Members of the Diplomatic Community

Ambassadors, Resident Commissioners, Honorary Consuls, and representatives of the Diplomatic and Consular Community on Wednesday participated in a seminar on Residency and Citizenship at Government House.

Organised in collaboration with the Immigration Department, the event's main objective was to provide clarity on the processes and requirements for residency, permanent residence and citizenship in Antigua and

Barbuda.

The diplomats were welcomed by Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, who emphasised the importance of equipping members of the diplomatic corps with accurate information so they may serve as effective bridges between their nationals and the institutions of Antigua and Barbuda. He extended thanks to the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Immigration, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, for facilitating the initiative,

and praised the Department of Immigration for its diligent work in preparing user-friendly resources, including a new immigration brochure.

Chief Immigration Officer Katrina Yearwood and her team, delivered a comprehensive presentation on eligibility criteria, fees, and the documentation required for applications.

The seminar was attended by the Abassadors of China, the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom, and Cuba, as well as Resident

Commissioners, Honorary Consuls, and community representatives, with support from the Chief Protocol Officer.

The seminar was followed by an opportunity for discussion and engagement, enabling participants to raise questions and share feedback on the immigration framework. The Chief Immigration Officer will continue to collaborate with members of the diplomatic corps to facilitate "community focused" engagements with various stakeholders.



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CBH Mosquito Insecticides remain effective



Over the past two weeks, staff of the Central Board of Health's Vector Control Laboratory, Public Health Inspectors, and members of the Epidemiology Team from the Ministry of Health participated in an Entomology Train-

ing focused on Insecticidal Resistance Testing.

The primary objective of the training was to determine whether mosquitoes in Antigua have developed resistance

to the insecticides and biological toxins currently used by CBH.

During the sessions, both *Culex* and *Aedes* larvae were collected in the field, reared to adulthood in the laboratory, and tested against the products in use.

According to the CBH, the results were encouraging—the mosquitoes showed no signs of resistance, meaning the insecticides remain effective. This finding is significant, as it confirms that the department can continue its mosquito control program with confidence, helping to reduce mosquito populations and limit the spread of vector-borne diseases such as Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya.

An important outcome of the training was capacity building. Staff are now better equipped with the knowledge and skills to independently conduct resistance testing in the future, strengthening local surveillance and control efforts.



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Fitches Creek Community Seeks Relief from Damages to Community Roads



The Fitches Creek Residents Association (FCRA) hosted a community consultation on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, with over 50 residents and key stakeholders at the St. George's Anglican Church.

The consultation was attended by the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, Charles Fernandez, alongside representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA), AECON, AVIA, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB), the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda - Parham Police Department, and the FCRA's "Building A Community Constituency for Conservation in the North East Marine Management Area" under the Critical Ecosystem's Partnership Fund (CEPF).

The consultation focused on the significant impacts of the ABAA's Runway Expansion Project, including road damage, reckless driving of trucks, limited stakeholder engagement along with environmental and social concerns.

The ABAA's US\$55 million development project which includes a new turning bay, runway resurfacing, and other upgrades at the V.C. Bird International Airport uses the community's roads to transport aggregate and other fine materials to the back entrance of the airport. This has led to the sudden and exacerbated deterioration of the community's core network roads including Fitches Creek Drive, Central Avenue and St. George Road. Fitches Creek Residents Association (FCRA) Chairperson, Mr. Clement Samuel moderated the discussions which encapsulated the community's call for action to find solutions. Residents raised additional issues such as the enforcement of truck covers to stop spillage, visibility and lack of license plates on trucks, reporting systems for speeding drivers, and clearly defined timelines in the contractor's work plan.

The consultation highlighted the need for road repairs, including the drainage systems noting further deterioration with the 2025 hurricane season, rerouting heavy trucks

away from community roads not built for such loads, and addressing health and safety risks from dust and material spills. The community's location within the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA) highlighted the concern for environmental safeguarding.

The Hon. Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, Charles Fernandez committed to provide the community with timelines regarding remedial roadworks with connection to the Ministry of Works. During the consultation, the representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) agreed to work with its contractor to reroute heavy machinery and engage the Ministry of Works for road rehabilitation support.

The Parham Police representatives advised residents to report speeding, illegal dumping, and spillage, assuring them that submitted photographic or video evidence would be used to enforce action against violators.

Britney McDonald, Project Manager for the FCRA's Biodiversity and Conservation Project, emphasized the

importance of ongoing environmental and social training and future public consultations to ensure the project is implemented responsibly and with limited impact to communities across the island.

The Fitches Creek Residents' Association is encouraging other affected communities to engage with the relevant authorities, report incidents promptly, and join in efforts to safeguard public health, road safety, and the environment.

The Fitches Creek Residents' Association is a local organization committed to maintaining the safety, cleanliness, and overall well-being of the Fitches Creek Community. The FCRA plays an active role in environmental conservation and community-led initiatives aimed at protecting the Fitches Creek Bay and surrounding areas.

The "Building a Community Constituency for Conservation in the Fitches Creek Bay and the NEMMA" Project is led by the Fitches Creek Residents Association and is funded by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund with the support of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute and partner Integrated Health Outreach.

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2024 IICA Accountability Seminar



opportunity to present its achievements for the preceding year, and report on sector progress, and challenges.

The seminar also provides an opportunity for partners and beneficiaries to discuss and identify strategic actions, aimed at strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's agricultural systems.

Over twenty participants attended



Antigua and Barbuda, September 10, 2025 (IICA) – The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Delegation in Antigua and Barbuda reviewed its 2024 work and outlined priorities for the year, during

its 2024 national accountability seminar on September 9, 2025.

Held under the theme “Cultivating Tomorrow’s Agriculture Today”, this annual event provides IICA with the

the event, held at Indies Greens Event Centre Room in Renfrew which featured Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Mr. Walter Christopher.

In his delivery, Mr. Christopher reflected on his observations of IICA's operations over the past two years, commending the organization for consistently living up to its mandate of providing strategic interventions where they are best positioned to deliver. Having reviewed IICA's annual report, he noted that its core areas of cooperation align closely with the ministry's priorities, describing it as



“a well-structured and easy-to-follow instrument of accountability.”

Christopher highlighted his enthusiasm for the Next Generation Sweet Potato Production Project, funded through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the European Union. This four-year initiative seeks to provide farmers with access to clean

planting material, while equipping them with the knowledge to develop value-added products. He pledged the continued support of the Ministry for IICA’s work both in Antigua & Barbuda and across the OECS.

Adding to the discourse, Director of Agriculture, Gregory Bailey, provided an overview of the status of the agricultural sector in Antigua & Barbuda, touching on both progress made and challenges to be addressed.

His presentation also highlighted eleven key initiatives and accomplishments, including Farmer Registration and Data Management, Backyard Gardening and Household Food Security and Youth Engagement, among others.

Mr. Gregg Rawlins, IICA Representative for the Eastern Caribbean States, underscored the urgency of addressing escalating climate risks, which increases the vulnerability of Caribbean nations, particularly within their agricultural systems. He emphasized that building resilience remains at the core of IICA’s technical agenda across Antigua & Barbuda and the wider region.

Additionally, Mr. Rawlins pointed out ongoing efforts that promote the adoption of sustainable technologies, regenerative practices, bio-economic approaches, and nature-based solution measures, essential for positioning ag-

riculture to both withstand shocks and respond swiftly to natural disasters.

Technical Specialist in the IICA Delegation in Antigua and Barbuda, Craig M. Thomas, gave a brief background on the Institute, its mandate and its technical areas of focus, as well as results of the technical cooperation and actions for completion in 2024. In addition, he presented the 2024 report and proposed 2025 Work Plan for the IICA Delegation in Antigua and Barbuda.

A copy of the 2024 Annual Report was presented to the Permanent Secretary and other key invited stakeholders, which included the representative from the Embassy for People’s Republic of China

The seminar concluded with discussions with stakeholders, partners, beneficiaries, and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, resulting in a number of proposed actions and comments regarding future programs of the Institute.

The accountability seminar is in keeping with the Institute’s ethics of transparency and accountability to our stakeholders and partners in common pursuit of developing a sustainable agriculture and rural sector in the country.

Haiti cannot wait – all OAS member states declare: “The time for decisive action is now”



By Sir Ronald Sanders

On 10 September, all 32 active member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) signed a joint statement on Haiti. As often happens in diplomacy, not every member state participated in the discussions and negotiations that produced the text. Antigua and Barbuda did. I led our delegation. We argued line by line because, in diplomacy, words decide budgets, mandates, and lives—they must be carefully weighed.

My delegation had four concerns.

First, the UN Security Council resolution proposed by the United States and Panama -to which the joint statement refers - has not yet been adopted. Discussions have been constant in New York, but the text is still not agreed. In plain terms, the United States and Panama are asking the UN Security Council to replace the small, under-resourced Kenya-led mission in Haiti with a larger, UN-backed force - about

5,550 personnel- with the legal authority to detain gang members, secure critical infrastructure (airports, ports, hospitals, schools), and run intelligence-led operations against armed groups for 12 months. The plan also stands up a UN Support Office to handle logistics and reimburse equipment costs, while voluntary contributions to a UN Trust Fund cover personnel reimbursements and other mission needs, keeping costs transparent and shared. This is understandable. The Kenyan-led mission has struggled to deliver sufficient results relative to the costs borne by funders. It cannot continue in this fashion.

Second, replacing the Multinational Security Support mission with any “Gang Suppression Force” risks narrowing the lens to the use of force - what my Deputy Head of Mission, Joy-Dee Davis-Lake, aptly called “urban warfare” - while missing the wider context of Haiti’s economic and social conditions that helped create the gangs. As I said publicly in response to a Miami Herald question, any new UN action cannot be only about suppression. Gangs recruit boys who have nothing to eat and no opportunities to grow into self-sufficient adults; violence grows where institutions are hollow, wages are non-existent, and there is no reason to trust the system in which people live. Yes, security is essential, but it must not be regarded as sufficient.

Third, Haitian ownership must not be a slogan; it is the basis of legitimacy for any transformation in the country. Antigua and Barbuda wanted the Haitian authorities to take clear ownership of the joint statement, and to accept

accountability for actions in Haiti, including how funds are used. Without that, international support will remain hesitant and unsure.

Fourth, we wanted to ensure that nothing in the joint statement opened a door for the OAS, as an institution, to participate in the use of force. The OAS Charter provides no such authority. More importantly, the OAS’ value - its credibility as a peace-builder and honest broker - would be undermined if it drifts into kinetic (use-of-force) operations. The OAS role is institution-building, rights, and political accompaniment. It is in the interest of each member state, and of the Organization’s relevance, that it keeps to its role.

Those were our guardrails. Within them, we supported the Joint Statement for the following reasons.

The statement reaffirms that Haiti must lead and places the United Nations at the centre of security operations, including a support office (UNSOH) and the transition to a stronger force aimed at restoring a safe, stable environment and dismantling gangs. That is the right hierarchy: the UN leads on protection; Haiti leads on sovereignty and responsibility.

The OAS is given a clear role - strengthening institutional and operational capacities through a civil, humanitarian, and human-rights approach. That keeps the Organization where it is most effective: helping the Haitian National Police with non-force enablement and helping the state rebuild the basics of governance.

The text encourages voluntary contributions to the UN Trust Fund for

Feature

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the new force and welcomes complementary support through OAS mechanisms such as SECURE-Haiti for police enablement, consistent with the UN framework. That pairing keeps money flows honest, channels visible, and burdens shared according to capability.

By calling for coordination among the UN, OAS, CARICOM, and Haiti, the statement tries to stop the waste the world has seen when work overlaps with no coordination.

The statement explicitly joins security operations with attention to root causes: weak institutions, corruption, poverty, stark inequalities, and the collapse of education and basic services. That is the difference between beating off gangs for a few months and building lasting peace for the future.

Thankfully, even as final negotiations were concluding on the joint statement, the UN undertook to move \$9

million in emergency funds to Haiti, in part to maintain the La Paix Hospital which is the only public hospital still functioning in Port-au-Prince. As Tom Fletcher, the UN's under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, put it: the security track only works alongside a humanitarian track that helps people go home, rebuild livelihoods, and recover dignity. That is precisely the balance we fought to preserve in the OAS text.

So where does this leave us?

It leaves the UN with the responsibility to deliver protection from gang predation and lawlessness—lawfully, accountably, and with the consent of Haiti's authorities. It leaves the OAS to backstop that effort where its Charter and competence are strongest: institution-building, rights compliance, political accompaniment, and non-force support to the Haitian National Police. It leaves donors with a clear request: fund the Trust Fund so the new

force can function, and fund humanitarian operations so society can live a normal life.

And it leaves the UN Security Council, especially the five permanent members, with a simple message: the states closest to Haiti - its neighbours in the OAS - have spoken with unusual unity after serious and attentive discussions by several lead countries. We support a Haitian-led path, a UN-led protection mandate, and a comprehensive strategy that treats both the symptoms and the cause of the Haitian crisis. As we conclude in the statement: "Haiti cannot wait. The time for decisive, coordinated action is now."

(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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Let the Healing of the Nation Begin --- For When we pray and God delivers.



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

Antigua and Barbuda—6:00 a.m.

From the hills of Liberta to the shores of Codrington, from the bustling streets of St. John's to the quiet corners of Willikies, a divine stirring moved across the land. At the break of dawn, thousands responded to a sacred call—not from government, not from media—but from heaven itself.

This National Day of Prayer was not born of policy, but of conviction. God laid it upon the heart of one obedient soul, who recognized that as a nation, we are not in the place God expects us to be. That realization sparked a movement. And this morning, the nation answered.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray...”

—2 Chronicles 7:14

A Nation on Its Knees

Across every village and hamlet, men and women gathered in homes, churches, community cen-

ters, and open fields. Some came with tears. Others with trembling hands. All came with hearts laid bare before the living God.

At New Winthropes Church, the presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable. Men and women cried out in worship and repentance. The atmosphere was not one of performance—but of surrender.

What We Witnessed Today

This morning, Antigua and Barbuda witnessed a spiritual phenomenon. Here is what unfolded across the nation:

1. **Intercession for Leadership**
Citizens lifted up our leaders—government officials, educators, law enforcement, and clergy. Not with criticism, but with compassion. They prayed for wisdom, integrity, and divine guidance.
2. **Submission to God's Will**
Hearts were softened. Pride was laid down. Many recommitted their lives to God, declaring, “Not my will, but Yours be done.”
3. **Gratitude for God's Goodness**
In the midst of economic challenges and global uncertainty, voices rang out in thanksgiving—for what God has done, and for what He will do.
4. **Humility Before the Throne**
There was no room for ego today. Only reverence. Men and women knelt, bowed, and prostrated themselves before the Almighty, acknowledging His

sovereignty and mercy.

A Spiritual Shift

This morning was more than a moment—it was a movement. A shift in the spiritual atmosphere. A recalibration of values. A reawakening of purpose.

We expect change—not because of eloquent prayers or emotional gatherings—but because of who God is. The One who hears. The One who heals. The One who restores.

Let this day be remembered not for its attendance, but for its anointing. Not for its publicity, but for its purity. Let it mark the beginning of a new chapter in our national story—one written not in ink, but in intercession.

To Visitors and Residents Alike

To those visiting our shores today, know this: you are witnessing a nation in revival. A people returning to their roots. A culture reclaiming its covenant with God.

To every resident, let this be a call to continue. Prayer is not a one-time event. It is a lifestyle. A life-line. A legacy.

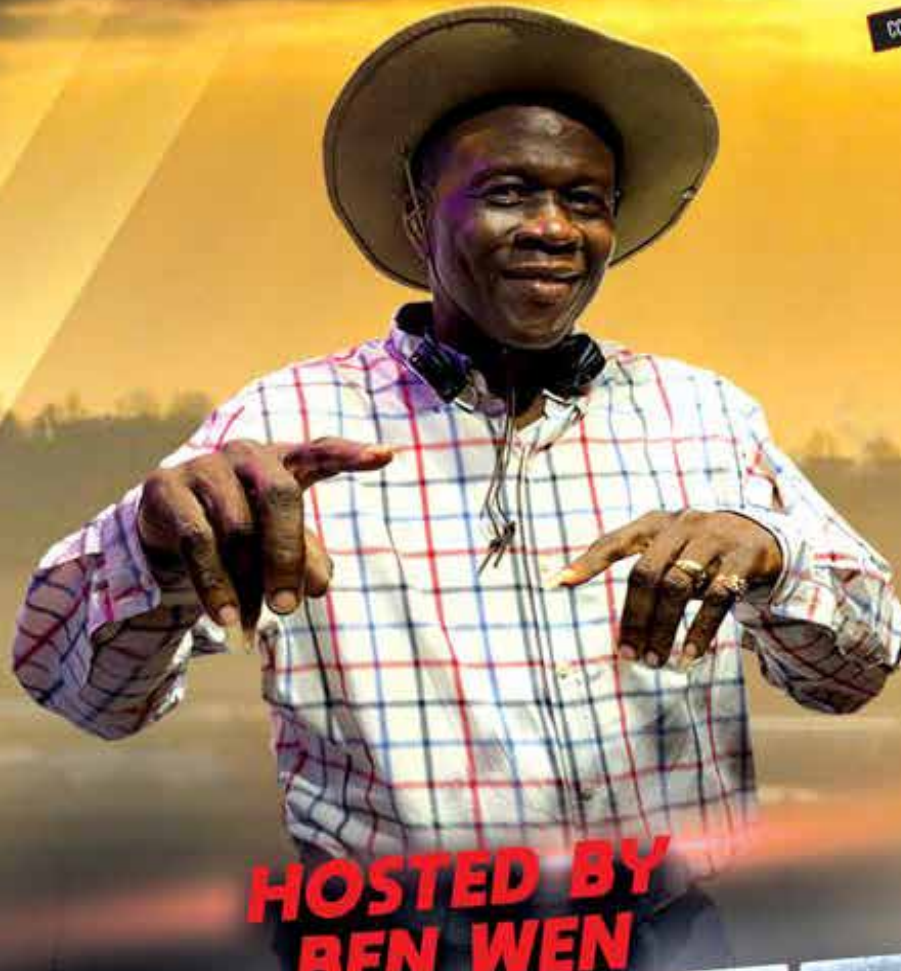
Final Word: Stay Prayerful

As the healing begins, let us remain prayerful. Let us walk in unity, speak with grace, and live with purpose. Let us remember that this transformation is not because of us—but because of who God is.

He is faithful. He is just. He is near.

And today, Antigua and Barbuda has drawn near to Him.

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Regional News

'Friend' sets up Arouca man to be kidnapped, victim jumps out vehicle



Police are investigating a kidnapping incident in Arouca that left a 42-year-old man shaken after his vehicle was stolen on Tuesday evening.

The victim reported that around 7.15 p.m. on September 09, he was driving his silver Nissan Tiida, registration PCT 2721, north along Range Road, Five Rivers, Arouca, in the company of a man he knows. The victim said his "friend" asked him to stop and pick up three unknown individuals at the side of the road.

Once they entered the vehicle, the front seat

passenger allegedly announced a robbery, forced the victim out of the driver's seat, and placed him in the trunk. The suspects then drove off with the vehicle.

The victim said that when the vehicle stopped, he managed to open the trunk and jump out, running in a northerly direction before observing the vehicle turn and escape. Also, in the Tiida was a cellphone and \$700 in cash.

Investigations are being led by PC Bristol of the Arouca Police District. (Trinidad Express)

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Regional News

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UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs: 'World must do better' for Haiti



UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Tom Fletcher, concluded his visit to Haiti, emphasizing the urgent need for international assistance amid widespread suffering.

Currently in Port-au-Prince, Fletcher highlighted the critical situation faced by the Haitian population.

According to a recent UN briefing by the Secretary General, during his stay, Fletcher visited the Kay Fanm (Women's House) support center, where he engaged with women who have survived severe gender-based violence, including sexual assault, and have lost their families and homes due to ongoing violence. Supported by the UN Population Fund, the center offers vital medical care and psychological support, underscoring the alarming levels of gender-based atrocities reported in Haiti

recently.

The UN official also toured the Hôpital Universitaire La Paix, the sole public hospital in Port-au-Prince capable of managing complex medical cases. However, the hospital has had to curtail some services, notably maternal healthcare, due to resource shortages.

Fletcher then visited a displacement site in the capital, where many residents have been forced to flee their homes because of escalating insecurity. There, he listened to displaced families describing the devastating impact of violence on their lives. Conditions are dire, with many experiencing multiple displacements in search of safety.

He also met with youth at a community center, where young people—once caught in violence—are acquiring new skills to rebuild their futures.

In addition, Fletcher held discussions with senior government officials, including Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé and Laurent Saint-Cyr, President of the Transitional Presidential Council. He also engaged with humanitarian partners and diplomatic representatives, reinforcing the international community's responsibility to assist Haiti during this critical period,

as noted in the UN's latest briefing.

The report outlines:

“‘The Under-Secretary-General stressed that people there want health-care, they want clean water, they want education for their children, and they just want a chance to rebuild their lives. The world must do better for them,’ Mr. Fletcher said.” (Dominica News Online)

NOTICE

The China Aid Programme in collaboration with The Embassy of China Antigua and Barbuda, Yuan Long Ping High Tech Agriculture Co. Ltd. Ministry of Agriculture Lands Fisheries and the Blue Economy presents, a 3-week training course on Agricultural Water Saving Irrigation for Antigua and Barbuda from 16 th October to 5th November 2025 at the Villa Poly Clinic ,Villa Area.

Please call 462 0418 or 764 1256 for further information on registration

Regional News

Holness to be sworn in as prime minister on Tuesday

Dr Andrew Holness is to be sworn in next week Tuesday to begin his third straight term as prime minister, King's House has informed.

The disclosure came after a formal meeting between Holness and Governor General Sir Patrick Allen today, following the September 3 general election which was won by Holness' Jamaica Labour Party.

The swearing in will take place on the Ceremonial Lawn of King's House, starting at 4 p.m.

This will be Holness' fourth time being sworn in as prime minister, having first taken the office in 2011, following the resignation of former prime minister Bruce Golding.

Holness again took the oath of office in 2016 and 2020, when his party won the general elections. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Child dead, nine others injured after car crashes into daycare in Canada



A young child was killed when an SUV smashed through the window of a daycare north of Toronto shortly before pick-up time on Wednesday.

York Regional Police said the boy was just 1 1/2 years old.

Six other children ranging in age from 18 months to 3 years old were also injured in the crash.

One was still in critical

condition hours later.

Police told a news conference that three staff members were also hurt at the daycare near Yonge Street and Nottingham Drive in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Constable Kevin Nebrija said a driver in his 70s was arrested at the scene and police do not believe it was a deliberate act.

“As you can imagine, this was a very chaotic

scene. I can tell you that the initial information suggests the vehicle was in the parking lot at the time, and for reasons unknown, drove through the front of the window,” he said. “We can appreciate that this is a very alarming call for parents to receive and to attend at the end of their day.”

He said all children had been accounted for and parents were been noti-

fied.

At the scene in the early evening, small blue and green chairs could be seen past the jagged edges of a completely shattered front window. About a dozen police cruisers were in the parking lot.

Nebrija said at the time of the crash, there were 96 children present in more than one room in the building. (AP)

Prince Harry has tea with his father, King Charles III, in their first meeting in over a year

Britain's Prince Harry joined his father, King Charles III, for tea on Wednesday at the monarch's London home, the first time they've met in well over a year.

The two have been distant since Harry and his wife, Meghan, left royal life and moved to California in 2020 and then publicly aired grievances about the royal family.

Buckingham Palace confirmed that Charles and Harry spent time together at Clarence House, where the king lives when he's in the capital.

Late Wednesday afternoon, Harry was driven through the gates of the four-story mansion not far from Buckingham Palace. He was seen leaving less than an hour later, as he ducked down in the car enroute to an evening event for his Invictus Games, which supports injured and sick service members and veterans.

There had been speculation that Harry might meet his father after he arrived in the UK on Monday, the third anniversary of the death of his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, for a four-day trip during which he will visit several of the charities he supports.

A meeting in July between representatives of the king, 76, and his wayward son, 40, led to suggestions that the frigid relationship be-



tween Harry and his family might be thawing.

The split had deepened over the past five years as Harry and Meghan aired their grievances with the royal family in a tell-all interview to Oprah Winfrey and a revealing Netflix series. Harry, also known as the Duke of Sussex, then fuelled the tensions by revealing personal conversations in his memoir, "Spare."

Harry and his father last met in February 2024, when the prince flew to London after receiving news that Charles had been diagnosed with cancer. Harry spent about 45 minutes with Charles before the king flew to his Sandringham country estate to recuperate from his treatment.

Harry has also had little contact with his elder brother, Prince William, heir to the throne.

Harry was last in London in April, when the Court of Appeal rejected his bid to

restore a police protection detail that was cancelled after he stopped being a working royal.

Charles was on a state visit to Italy at the time, so a meeting then was impossible.

That case was itself an impediment to improved relations because it involved Harry criticising the king's government in the courts. But once it was over, change became possible.

Immediately after the case ended, Harry said he would "love reconciliation with my family."

"There's no point in continuing to fight anymore," he told the BBC on the day the court case was resolved. "Life is precious. I don't know how much longer my father has."

Despite that olive branch, Harry had also struck a combative tone. The prince repeatedly said the decision to withdraw his security was made at the direction of the

royal household in an effort to control him and his wife while putting their safety at risk.

"What I'm struggling to forgive, and what I will probably always struggle to forgive, is the decision that was made in 2020 that affects my every single day and that is knowingly putting me and my family in harm's way," Harry said.

But with the lawsuit out of the way, there were signs of change.

In July, the new team handling Harry and Meghan's communications, headed by Los Angeles-based Meredith Maines, was seen on the balcony of a private members' club in London speaking with Tobynd Andreae, the king's press representative. The Mail on Sunday tabloid took a photo of what it called: "The secret Harry peace summit."

Regardless of who tipped off the newspaper, it showed a change of tone since the meeting wouldn't have happened if the principals hadn't given their tacit consent.

Following the long-awaited meeting Wednesday, Harry dashed to his next charity appearance at an Invictus Games event across town.

When a reporter asked about his father's health, the prince offered his firsthand opinion: "Yes he's great, thank you." (AP)

Gmail users urged to heighten vigilance following Google breach



With phishing campaigns on the rise following a breach of Google's Salesforce database, Dwayne Brown, cybersecurity executive at JN Group, has urged Gmail users to strengthen their account security and adopt safer log-in practices.

His warning follows Google's recent alert to its 2.5 billion users about the breach and the potential for increased hacking attempts, exploiting its exposed business contact information.

In August, Google acknowledged the breach of one of its Salesforce databases but said customer data was not compromised. The company noted that the exposed information consisted of "publicly available business information" yet warned that attackers were using it to launch more serious campaigns and conducting "successful intrusions".

According to reports, Google's Threat Intelligence Group first warned of the

attacks in June, carried out by a group of hackers connected to ShinyHunters, known for running phishing campaigns. Their recent campaigns have focused on Salesforce environments, often in collaboration with another hacking group called Scattered Spider. Since the Google breach, fraudsters have been using the opportunity to pretend to be Google support staff to trick users into accessing their emails.

"Even though passwords weren't compromised, attackers can use the leaked data to do harm. Attackers can send emails that look legitimate and with users' details, they can craft urgent or personalised messages, increasing the likelihood that these users will let down their guards. Many sites also rely on email to reset passwords or on their 2FA devices, and if an attacker convinces a user to click a link or provide a code, they can gain access without ever

breaching the main database," he explained.

Stressing the need for heightened vigilance, Brown advised users to follow Google's guidance by updating their passwords and enabling additional safeguards, such as two-factor authentication (2FA) and passkeys, if they have not already done so.

He explained that changing passwords helps prevent old or stolen passwords from being misused, while two-factor authentication (2FA) adds an extra layer of security that can block unauthorised log-ins even if a password is compromised. Passkeys, he added, replace passwords with a secure digital key on a user's device, often unlocked with a fingerprint or face scan, that make accounts much harder to break into.

"Maintaining strong security habits is the most effective defence against cyberattacks," he said. "Regularly changing your passwords while keeping them unique to you, enabling 2FA and using passkeys with fingerprint or face recognition makes your accounts far more resistant to phishing and other common attacks."

Brown also advised persons to never share verification codes with anyone, and to verify suspicious emails or calls through official channels. He also cautioned against clicking links in unsolicited emails.

"Hackers can be very con-

vincing, using carefully crafted and compelling stories to trick you into revealing sensitive information. They often create a sense of urgency, making it seem like you need to act immediately," he said, while reminding persons to always verify requests before responding, and avoid sharing passwords or personal details through email or over the phone.

Additionally, Brown recommended that Gmail users regularly review their account activity and check recent log-ins, devices and connected apps through Google's security settings to spot any unusual activity. He also advised persons to ensure that recovery phone numbers and email addresses are current, as they can provide an extra layer of protection if an account is compromised.

"Taking a few minutes to check account activity and update recovery information can significantly enhance security and provide early warnings of any suspicious activity place on your account," Brown said. "If you see something that looks suspicious, such as a log-in from another country or an unfamiliar device, immediately change your password, enable two-factor authentication if it isn't already on, and review your connected apps and recovery options to secure your account." (Jamaica Gleaner)

Business football league continues this weekend



The SkyTiger Services football team.

The 2025 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship will resume with the second round of matches this weekend.

The competition, which is being contested by 34 teams that are divided into four groups, will continue with triple headers across five venues in Antigua on Saturday. Matches at all five venues will be played simultaneously at 5 pm, 6:15 pm, and 7:30 pm.

Defending champs Hermitage Bay Hotel will continue their title defence against the 2023 champions APUA Telecoms in a Group 4 clash at Jennings at 6:15 pm.

It will be preceded by a Group 3 match between Keyonna Beach Hotel and newcomers ACE Trucking FC at 5 pm. The Department of Immigration will tackle Cocos Hotel in a Group 4 encounter at 7:30 pm.

In a triple-header at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos, His Majesty's Prison (HMP) Oasis United will take on Royalton Chic in a Group 3 affair in the opening game at 5 pm.

It will be followed by a Group 3 match between Postal Services and newcomers SkyTiger Services at 6:15 pm and a Group 2 encounter between Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) and Macky Enterprises at 7:30 pm.

At the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park, Blue Waters Hotel will meet St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC) in a Group 1 affair at 5 pm.

Public Works Asphalt will oppose newcomers Automotive Art in another Group 1 encounter at 6:15 pm, and University of the West Indies Frigate Bird FC will tackle Hodges Bay Resort in a Group 2 match at 7:30 pm.

In a triple-header at Golden Grove,

the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority will challenge the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors in a Group 3 match at 5 pm.

Last year's third-place finishers Sandals Resort & Spa will take on APUA Head Office in a Group 1 match at 6:15 pm, and the Ministry of Tourism will clash with the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in a Group 2 encounter at 7:30 pm.

At the St. Johnston's Village Stadium, last year's losing finalist, the Ministry of Agriculture, will oppose Fresh Acres Enterprise in a Group 2 affair at 5 pm.

Galley Bay Ballers and Royalton Strikers will clash in a Group 1 match at 6:15 pm, and the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority will meet Villa Tech Enterprise in a Group 3 encounter at 7:30 pm.

2026 T20 World Cup to be held between February and March



India's head coach Rahul Dravid, center, holds the trophy as the management staff and players celebrate after India beat South Africa in the final to win the ICC Men's T20 Championship at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Saturday, June 29, 2024. (AP)

The 2026 T20 World Cup, which is being jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka will reportedly be held between February 7 and March 8 next year.

While the International Cricket Council (ICC) has not made any official announcements, reports are that it has identified the window and informed the participating countries.

The matches will be played in at least five venues in India and two in

Sri Lanka, while the final will be in Ahmedabad or Colombo, depending on whether Pakistan is playing.

India and Pakistan are not playing in each other's countries due to strained political relations between the two governments at present.

Currently, 15 teams are confirmed for the 2026 men's T20 World Cup. They are defending champions India, Sri Lanka,

Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, South Africa, USA, West Indies, New Zealand, Pakistan, Ireland, Canada, the Netherlands, and Italy, who have qualified for a World Cup for the first time.

Of the remaining five teams, two will come from the Africa regional qualifier and three from the Asia and East Asia Pacific qualifier.

The format will be the

same as the 2024 men's T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA, where the 20 teams were divided into four groups of five each, with the top two from each group qualifying for the Super Eight round, where once again the eight teams were divided into two groups of four.

The top two from each Super Eight group progressed to the semi-finals

Athapaththu's four-wicket haul fires Royals to commanding victory



Trinbago Knight Riders' Shabika Gajabi is clean bowled by Barbados Royals' Chamari Athapaththu during their 2025 Massy Women's Caribbean Premier League match at Providence Stadium in Georgetown, Guyana, Wednesday, September 10, 2025. (CPL/T20)

PROVIDENCE, Guyana (CMC) – The Barbados Royals reinforced their status as the team to beat in the Massy Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL), cruising to a comprehensive 59-run victory over the Trinbago Knight Riders at the National Stadium in Guyana on Wednesday.

The win, built on a complete team performance and crowned by a stunning bowling display from Chamari Athapaththu, solidifies the defending champions' position at the top of the table.

Sent in to bat first af-

ter Knight Riders captain Chinelle Henry won the toss, the Royals posted a competitive 137 for six on a fresh Providence stadium pitch. The innings was anchored by a superb knock from powerful left-hander Qiana Joseph, who top-scored with a composed 63 from 52 balls.

Joseph shared a crucial 59-run opening stand with Athapaththu, who chipped in with 14 off 12 balls to provide a solid platform.

The Knight Riders' bowlers, led by a spirited effort from Deandra Dot-

tin, fought back to prevent a late onslaught. Dottin clean bowled Courtney Webb and Captain Henry, and added a run-out of Georgia Redmayne to her tally.

A late flurry from Kycia Knight, who struck four boundaries in her unbeaten 33, provided vital impetus to push the Royals past the 130-run mark.

In response, the Trinbago Knight Riders' chase never found its footing. The innings collapsed dramatically and they were skittled for a meagre 78 in just over 15 overs. Only opener Lizelle Lee

offered any significant resistance with a patient unbeaten 39 off 44 balls.

The destruction was masterminded by Sri Lankan superstar Chamari Athapaththu. After contributing with the bat, her right-arm off-spin decimated the Knight Riders' batting line-up. She delivered a mesmerising spell, claiming four wickets for just seven runs in three overs to deservedly claim the Player of the Match award.

Athapaththu was ably supported by fellow off-spinner Sheneta Grimmond, who struck twice in two balls in the second over to set the tone for the collapse. The heavy defeat leaves the Knight Riders rooted to the bottom of the table, still searching for their first win after two matches.

Summarised Scores:
ROYALS WOMEN 137-6 in 20 overs (Qiana Joseph 63, Kycia Knight 33 not out; Deandra Dottin 2-22) vs **KNIGHT RIDERS WOMEN** 78 in 15.3 overs (Lizelle Lee 39 not out, Jess Jonassen 10, Shikha Pandey 10; Chamari Athapaththu 4-7, Sheneta Grimmond 2-12).

Isak to lead parade of new signings as Premier League resumes

LONDON (Reuters) - The Premier League returns this weekend after a two-week pause with clubs eager to show off their new transfer window purchases, none more so than champions Liverpool for whom Alexander Isak could make his debut at Burnley on Sunday.

An astonishing 3 billion pounds (US\$4.05 billion) was spent by the 20 clubs in England's top-flight, a fair chunk of it in the last few days of trading as clubs beefed up their squads for the months ahead.

Isak's acrimonious split from Newcastle United was finally resolved in the nick of time, with Liverpool paying a British record 125 million pounds for the Swedish goal-machine.

The 25-year-old did not play a single minute for Newcastle this season as he was effectively frozen out and, while he did come off the bench for a brief cameo for Sweden against Kosovo on Monday, it is unlikely he will start at Burnley.

However, manager Arne Slot will be keen to give him some minutes at Turf Moor where Liverpool will be seeking to maintain their 100% start to the defence of their crown with a fourth win.

Isak may have been the highest-profile summer deal but several other clubs resume their Premier League campaigns eager to try out some expensive new toys.

Arsenal are likely to hand a first start to Eberechi Eze at home to Nottingham Forest, a club who not only added Oleksandr Zinchenko, Dilane Bakwa, and Cuiabano on deadline day but since replaced manager Nunu Espirito Santo with Ange Postecoglou.

Former Tottenham Hotspur manager Postecoglou can expect a baptism



Alexander Isak

of fire on his return to north London, especially with Arsenal still smarting from their loss at Liverpool.

After two successive defeats, Manchester City host Manchester United on Sunday in the weekend's big derby with manager Pep Guardiola's side trailing their neighbours in the standings. All eyes will be on who Guardiola puts in goal after the last-minute signing of goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

United, who have four points after a last-gasp win against Burnley, will almost certainly also have a debutant in goal after the arrival of Senne Lammens on deadline day.

Aston Villa have endured a poor start with one point and no goals from their first three games so expect to see their deadline day signings feature away to Everton on Saturday.

Jadon Sancho, on loan from Manchester United, will give Villa some much-needed attacking spark while

Harvey Elliott, surplus to requirements at Liverpool, could also start.

Everton, for whom loan signing Jack Grealish has been in scintillating form so far, will be buoyant after spending 97 million pounds in initial transfer fees during the summer and could give a debut to new midfielder Merlin Rohl.

Tottenham Hotspur travel to West Ham United on Saturday as Spurs begin a new era following the shock exit of executive chairman Daniel Levy after 25 years in charge of the club.

His parting gift may have been the signing of Randal Kolo Muani on loan from Paris St. Germain on deadline day and he could make his debut at the London Stadium.

Newcastle fans may lament the bitter loss of Isak, but softening that blow was the signing of Yoane Wissa from Brentford for a reported 55 million pounds.

Wissa will have the opportunity to instantly endear himself with the St. James' Park faithful at home to bottom club Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday.

Brentford, who also lost forward Bryan Mbeumo in the summer to Manchester United, signed Arsenal's Reiss Nelson to bolster their attack and he could feature at home to Chelsea in Saturday's late evening offering.

One deadline-day deal that failed to complete was Crystal Palace captain Marc Guehi's expected sale to Liverpool.

Palace fans will be relieved to see the inspirational central defender, who scored his first England goal on Tuesday, back in red and blue at home to Sunderland on Saturday.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER



Antigua and Barbuda Falcons' batsman Amir Jangoo, left, celebrates his team's victory against the Guyana Amazon Warriors at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

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27, as both spinners restricted run-scoring to make the Falcons' chase a nervy one.

But Jangoo produced a fine knock to settle the Falcons' nervous response. Jangoo anchored the innings from the top of the order for the Falcons, as wickets fell all around him. He repelled and capitalised on anything loose to score a match-winning 51 not out off 57 balls.

The Falcons recovered from 24 for four in the power play, as captain Wasim compiled 16 off 24 balls

before being run out. Fabian Allen chipped in with 15 not out off 14 balls to see the Falcons get over the line and secure a much-heralded play-off spot.

"I feel really good. I had a good tournament leading up to this, and I understood what I needed to do tonight, which was just to come out and execute the plan. Wickets in the Power play are always important, especially against Guyana," said Seales after the victory.

"We know they bat very deep, so the more we break

into their batting, the more we keep chipping away at the wickets. It obviously worked well for us."

With both sides sitting mid-table and with play-off places up for grabs, the match was always going to be a crucial fixture. The win means the Falcons secured their spot in the playoffs for the first time in the CPL after their debut tournament last year.

The Falcons finished their quota of 10 matches in the preliminary round-robin stage in third place with 11

points. Their fourth defeat left the Amazon Warriors in fourth place on eight points from eight matches.

The Warriors, who have two matches left in the preliminary stage, remain strong favourites to clinch the fourth and final spot in the playoffs.

Warriors, St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots, and the Barbados Royals are all in contention and will battle it out for the final place in the 2025 CPL playoffs as the tournament heads towards its conclusion.

Falcons beat Warriors to clinch playoff spot in CPL



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons celebrate with fast bowler Jayden Seales, center during their CPL match against the Guyana Amazon Warriors at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons confirmed their spot in the playoff and knockout phase of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) by snatching a four-wicket victory against hosts Guyana Amazon Warriors in a low-scoring thriller at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Wednesday night.

The Amazon Warriors

were skittled out for just 99 runs in 18.1 overs after being sent in to bat by the Falcons' captain, Imad Wasim, who won the toss.

In reply, the Falcons, led by an unbeaten half-century by opener Amir Jangoo, overcame some early struggles to eventually achieve victory by scoring 103 for six with five balls to spare.

The Falcons' decision to

field first paid off, as fast bowler Jayden Seales, who claimed the Player of the Match award, and Pakistani leg-spinner Usama Mir shared seven wickets in an impressive bowling display to dismiss the Amazon Warriors for less than 100 runs.

Seales, who was celebrating his 24th birthday, snapped up four for 15, and Usama Mir grabbed three

for 17. Shai Hope top scored with 26 off 14 balls, and Quentin Samson chipped in with 19 off 15 balls.

The Falcons were made to struggle to achieve what looked like a straightforward chase on paper. Off-spinner Moeen Ali took two for 10, and Warriors' skipper and leg-spinner Imran Tahir claimed two for

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