

PAHO Advisors lobby for social inclusion in Mental Health Bill

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These Physician Interns have completed a rigorous one-year training program at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and are now one step closer to becoming licensed medical practitioners in the state of Antigua and Barbuda

Photo Credit [SLBMC]

New Mental Hill Bill aims to eliminate social exclusion



International Mental Health Consultant, Dr. Soumitra Pathare

Two advisors from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) are underscoring the importance of social inclusion in the treatment of people with mental health challenges.

Dating back to the colonial era, International Mental Health Consultant, Dr. Soumitra Pathare, said the aim of mental health legislations in Antigua and Barbuda and throughout the region were all about excluding people with mental health conditions from society. However, PAHO is on a mission to ensure new mental health laws have at their core, social inclusion.

“It’s about ensuring that people’s rights are protected that people with mental illness are able to live like every other ordinary citizen – a normal life in society, with appropriate support and care,” Dr. Pathare said while appearing on the Browne and Browne Show last Saturday.



PAHO’s Advisor for NCDS and Mental Health for Barbados, Dr. Taraleen Malcolm

He explained that such legislation is more of a “rights-based-approach”, ensuring that mentally ill patients are treated as citizens, while they receive care and treatment. This model, he added, is drawn from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Dr. Pathare’s position was supported by Dr. Taraleen Malcolm, PAHO’s Advisor for NCDS and Mental Health for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Also a guest on Saturday’s show, Dr. Malcolm stated previously, mental health legislations were focused on institutionalisation. However, the focus today from PAHO’s perspective, is the promotion of community-based mental health services, an alternative to every mental health patient having to seek treatment at a psychiatric hospital.

The PAHO advisor revealed that in the

past, countries within the region have allotted the majority of their health-care budgets to psychiatric hospitals. Using the principle of the pyramid to support her discussion, Dr. Malcolm stated that at the tip of the pyramid are patients with disorders that require specialized treatment and where the majority of the budget is channelled (Psychiatric Hospital). However, the majority of mental health patients that require primary care are located at the base of the pyramid. With this in mind, the PAHO advisor said they are promoting the importance of primary care for mental health patients in countries within the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados.

Through evidence-based data, Dr. Taraleen Malcolm revealed that within the region, the majority of people require psychological care instead of specialised treatment. This she stated, can be provided by psychologists, GPs and mental health psychiatric nurses and countries are being advised accordingly.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment, and Civil Service Affairs, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has commenced a series of public consultations in preparation for the tabling of a new Mental Health Bill in Antigua and Barbuda.

The consultations according to the ministry, are to ensure broad stakeholder engagement.



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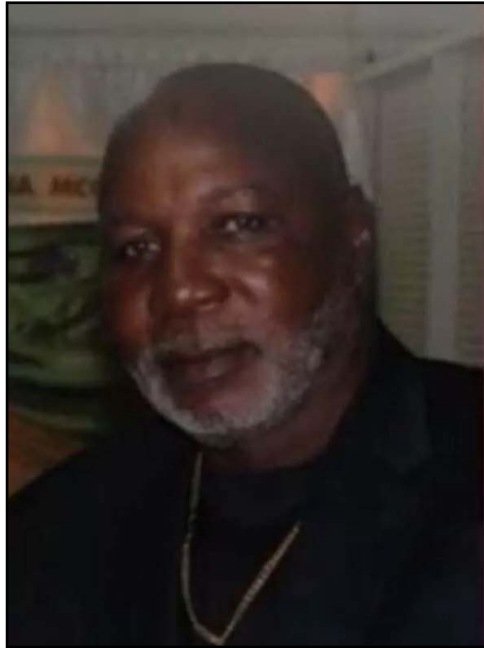
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Police seek public's assistance in solving murder of businessman

There is an appeal from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda for information that will aid in solving the murder of George Barnes.

George "Charlie" Barnes, the proprietor of Charlie's Service Station on Sir Sydney Walling Highway, was shot and killed on Friday at approximately 10:20PM.

According to police reports, the 74-year-old businessman had just arrived at his residence in Nugent Street, Ottos Newtown, when he was attacked by an unknown assailant. During the incident, he was shot in the chest and later pronounced dead at the scene.



The proprietor of Charlie's Service Station George "Charlie" Barnes

The police are appealing to anyone with information that may further assist the investigation to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the anonymous Crimestoppers hotline at 800-Tips (8477).

Acting Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers extends heartfelt condolences to the family, relatives, and friends of the late Mr. George "Charlie" Barnes during this difficult time.

Members of the public have expressed shock at the murder of the businessman and are calling for those responsible for the heinous crime to be swiftly apprehended.



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PM Browne mulls review of plan for Sea View Farm facility



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has suggested that his administration may likely review the plan it has in place for use of the former Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall in Seaview Farm that it purchased in 2024.

As it moves to prioritise mental health, the property, which was purchased for US\$3 million, is to be developed into a Wellness Centre, where among other things, people requiring short-term mental health care will be treated.

But an official who is part of a Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) mission team that is in Antigua and Barbuda providing guidance in the preparation of a comprehensive Mental Health Bill, is seemingly suggesting that the purpose for which the six-acre property is intended, may not be ideal for the country if it is adopting a new approach to mental health care for its people.

Dr. Soumitra Pathare, an International Mental Health Consultant attached to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), along with Dr. Taraleen Malcolm and Felicia Carter are part of the PAHO mission team to Saint John's that is contributing to the Mental Health Bill being crafted by the government.

Responding to a question on investments in mental health infrastructure, Dr. Pathare said for decades, great emphasis has been placed on the construction of stand-alone mental health



facilities to house patients, which in his opinion, are unnecessary.

"What we know from the research evidence and what we know has happened in countries, is that is probably the worst way to provide mental healthcare," Dr. Soumitra Pathare pointed out.

Giving reasons for his statement, he said such facilities are expensive to construct and they produce poor outcomes.

"There is absolutely now reason why we should be doing that."

Instead, the mental health consultant suggested that priority should be given to the integration of mental health into central healthcare, as is the case in some low and middle-income countries.

"If you actually integrate mental health into those general hospital, it reduces the stigma. Secondly, it reduces the cost. The third is that because it is more accessible and it is at a place where you don't feel stigmatised, people seek help earlier. So, they don't delay taking help...so if they seek help earlier, they are less likely to deteriorate and more likely to recover faster," Dr. Pathare, noted.

His declaration prompted a response from Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who on his radio programme on Saturday, described the mental health

expert's ideas as "revolutionary", acknowledged he was unfamiliar with the importance of including mental health within primary health care.

"We have already made that investment. I would have to have a further discussion with the health minister to determine whether or not we pursue this strategy to incorporate or maybe build out something else and use that facility at Seaview Farm for another purpose," the prime minister stated.

He also plans to engage the PAHO officials in discussions on how the stigma associated with stand-alone psychiatric facilities can be eliminated.

On the proposed changes that will come about following the passage of the new Mental Health Bill, the head of government has stressed the need for public education "so that we can have a more empathetic population—people who are more empathetic to individuals who are suffering from different levels of mental health illness".

Addressing a forum "**Uniting the Americas for Mental Health: From Commitment to Action**" "during the 55th Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly in Saint John's in June, Prime Minister Browne described mental health as "a grave crisis long hidden in plain sight that demands our collective resolve" and called for urgent action to address the scourge.

Telethon raises funds for news anchor's medical expenses

Antigua Barbuda Broadcasting Service held a telethon last evening to raise funds in an effort to help one of its employees offset medical expenses.

With a \$30,000 goal, fellow employees worked the telephones commencing at 8PM, while local artistes contributed their time and talents in providing entertainment.

It was revealed last week that Cherilyn Beazer, a news anchor at ABS Television, had travelled to Colombia for medical treatment. In a video, she revealed that approximately six months ago, she developed a lesion in her right jaw.

Beazer, who has worked on television for many years, stated that following an ultrasound, her dentist became concerned that the lesion may be cancerous. As such, preparations commenced for her to travel



Cherilyn Beazer, a news anchor at ABS Television

to Colombia to undergo a biopsy.

The television presenter has extended gratitude to

the medical practitioners who have tended to her and family and friends for their support.

Last evening, her co-workers lent their support to her cause by hosting the telethon.

ABS's General Manager, Erna-Mae Braithwaite revealed last evening that the first stage of Cherilyn Beazer's treatment begins today. She said that the telethon was an avenue through which the general public could have reciprocated the care and dedication given by Cherilyn to the community, adding that every contribution, large or small was welcomed and will go towards medical expenses, rehabilitation or general support.

At 9:30 PM, pledges had totalled \$26,100 and had looked set to surpass the \$30,000 goal.

Even though the telethon has concluded, anyone wishing to donate to the cause can still do so.



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ABHTA hosts annual job fair later this month



ABHTA

ANTIGUA BARBUDA HOTELS & TOURISM ASSOCIATION

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) has announced its annual Hospitality Job Fair, will be held on Friday, September 26, 2025, at the Multipurpose Cultural & Exhibition Center, Perry Bay, from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

This year's Job Fair brings together 31 participating companies, providing an exciting range of opportunities for job seekers eager to start or advance their careers in hospitality.

Participants can explore openings across a variety of roles, including Administration, IT, Marketing, Tour Guiding, Food & Beverage, Culinary, Front Desk, Maintenance, Housekeeping, and much more.

Job seekers will gain direct access to recruiters from 31 leading companies, on-the-spot interviews for available positions and a chance to

network.

Those planning on attending should have completed early registration, which ended yesterday.

Those attending the job fair on 26th September, must have

in their possession multiple copies of their updated résumé, and a valid photo I.D. Job seekers are encouraged to dress professionally and present themselves in a manner that reflects the standards of the hospitality industry.


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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Antiguan and Barbudan Artists dominate at Notting Hill and Leicester



Tian Winter 2025 double Party Monarch champion

Three of Antigua and Barbuda's top musical talents have triumphantly concluded a week-long cultural outreach tour across the United Kingdom, bringing the nation's acclaimed Carnival vibes to Europe's largest street festival and delivering a resounding success for the twin-island

destination.

Tian Winter (2025 double Party Monarch champion), DJ Quest (international DJ/producer), and Young Vice (2024 Party Soca Monarch winner) captivated audiences at Notting Hill Carnival before culminating the tour with a sold-out diaspora

showcase in Leicester.

The initiative, sponsored by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (UK & Europe) and the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, generated substantial engagement. At Notting Hill Carnival, which attracts two million attendees over two days,

the artists featured on the Island Mas UK float in full national branding and performed live Antiguan Soca to 2,600 people, energising the crowd and amplifying the country's presence.

The team also headlined Dreamland J'ouvert in St Albans, a key pre-carnival celebration, which welcomed 3,500 attendees, positioning Antigua and Barbuda as a cultural highlight on the UK Soca circuit.

Melissa Christian from Island Mas UK said: 'It was a powerful moment to bring true Antiguan and Barbudan representation to two of the UK's biggest Carnival stages. Sharing the platform we have cultivated with such talented artists felt incredibly meaningful. Their presence added authenticity, energy and pride, and the response from the crowds spoke volumes.'



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The artists featured on BBC Radio 1Xtra's Seani B show (28 August), where they taught Antiguan dance moves in a segment titled *'Learning de Dance'*, got interviewed by Soca News and had fun creating content with Triniboi Joojie.

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission commented "We feel proud to promote our Carnival culture on international platforms. Sharing the energy, creativity, and spirit of Antigua Carnival with UK audiences shows just how powerful our cultural exports can be. It is opportunities like these that inspire deeper interest in what truly makes our Carnival the Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festi-

val."

A key stop was Leicester, home to the UK's largest Antiguan and Barbudan diaspora community. The tour's sold-out grand finale 'Road to Antigua Carnival 2026' drew over three hundred attendees, with more than 80% of tickets claimed in under 24 hours. Guests enjoyed live performances, authentic Antigua and Barbuda cuisine, a tribute to Burning Flames' 40th anniversary, and a 100% Antiguan and Barbudan music policy throughout the night. One lucky attendee also won a free trip to Antigua Carnival 2026.

Cherrie Osborne, Director of Tourism UK & Europe, said: "Having our artists headline in both London and Leicester has been incredible for the 2026

Carnival campaign. The reception we have had has already sparked a surge of enquiries about travelling to Antigua. This kind of authentic cultural engagement is precisely what helps turn interest into actual visits and lasting connections."

The initiative reflects the Antigua and Barbuda

Tourism Authority's wider strategy of leveraging music and culture to engage UK audiences. With Carnival 2026 set to place Antigua and Barbuda firmly in the global spotlight, the UK's strong diaspora presence offers a vital bridge to new visitors while reinforcing the destination's role as a Caribbean cultural hub.

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.

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Regional News

Mechanic charged after allegedly hitting policeman with vehicle in Half-Way Tree

A St Catherine mechanic has been charged after allegedly using his motor vehicle to hit a police officer who attempted to stop him for an alleged traffic breach in Half-Way Tree, St Andrew on Wednesday.

Charged with assault occasioning grievous bodily harm is 28-year-old Renaldo Williams of Flint Close in Hellshire, Portmore.

According to the Half Way Tree police, about 5:59 p.m. on Wednesday, a policeman observed Wil-



liams disobey a red traffic light along Eastwood Park Road and signaled him to stop.

Williams reportedly complied at first but, after a brief interaction, wound up his car window, ig-

nored the officer's instructions and then accelerated, hitting the policeman with the vehicle.

He sped off but was later apprehended during an operation along Half Way Tree Road in St Andrew.

The injured officer was taken to hospital, treated and released.

Williams is scheduled to appear in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court on October 3. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Taxi driver shot dead after picking up fake passengers



A taxi operator was shot dead late Friday night after two men posing as passengers reportedly attacked him during

a trip in Portmore, St Catherine. The unidentified driver, who was op-

erating a Toyota Probox motor car, was killed after he complied with the men's request to stop along a section of Greater Portmore.

According to police reports, about 10:50 p.m., the cabbie was travelling along West Henderson Boulevard when he was hired by two men pretending to be passengers.

Upon reaching South East 4th Street 2 East, near Josephine Riley Park in Greater Portmore, the men asked him to pull over.

When he did, one of them reportedly exited the vehicle, pulled a firearm and shot the driver in the upper body.

The wounded man lost control of the taxi, which crashed into a nearby drain. He was later assisted to the Spanish Town Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The Portmore Criminal Investigation Branch is probing the incident. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Threats to T&T national security

As far back as 2023, the Strategic Services Agency (SSA) drew attention to imminent challenges implicating Trinidad and Tobago that were lurking on the horizon because of increasing regional tensions involving the United States, Venezuela and Guyana.

The SSA's annual report for 2023 warned that these regional tensions between the US, Venezuela and Guyana would inevitably affect and influence the Caricom region's status as a "Zone of Peace".

And that it could also impact the Dragon gas field deal with Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, as well as other existing and future Trinidad and Tobago-Venezuela energy agreements.

The SSA report, which was tabled in the House of Representatives on Friday, also anticipated that growing Venezuela/Guyana/US tensions could lead to an increased rate of piracy and kidnappings for ransom, as well as increased threats to energy security and infrastructure.

"The escalation in the territorial issues relating to the Essequibo region may further compound the issues affecting Trinidad and Tobago's national security, particularly as it relates to maritime insecurity and illegal migration," the report stated.

"The continued smuggling of illegal firearms and ammunition, mainly from the US, and the increasing demand in drug-consuming countries will compound the crime situation with increasing levels of violence in Trinidad and Tobago as criminals compete in the underworld economy."

The report recommended that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago "continue to encourage a diplomatic solution to the Venezuela-Guyana dispute and bolster T&T maritime security assets in its jurisdiction".

The SSA report also cautioned that growing global cocaine markets would

increase the risk of organised crime groups operating in and out of Trinidad and Tobago.

"Consequently, Trinidad and Tobago's role as a transshipment point may gain further significance with the following: increased collaborations between criminal gangs, and the strengthening of cross-border criminal networks in narcotics and firearms trafficking, resulting in increased firearm-related crimes and homicides".

The report also telegraphed that illegal firearm suppliers seeking mechanisms to reduce risks and costs associated with cross-border smuggling, may develop locally 3D printed metal weapons and ammunition, causing further proliferation of firearm usage.

The report identified a dual front attack on the society from the tensions on external and internal fronts, namely the regional tensions and the gangs.

"Trinidad and Tobago's proximity to Venezuela and Guyana makes it a convenient and strategic location for the smuggling of cocaine and other narcotics, fuelling a rise in gang violence and an influx of illegal guns. In 2023, the continued nexus between gangs and the issuing of legitimate contracts as well as gang territorial disputes, resulted in the use and application of extreme violence, along with an alarming trend of extorting businesses for protection money..."

"T&T gangs continue to control access to State resources in the community and this includes social services and employment. The control of the gangs, their access to resources and their displays of wealth and influence contribute to their persistence in impoverished areas and to the spread of a gang subculture within the society... This spread has intensified with gangs' expansion into the music industry.

"Further, 'Trinibad' music is inciting and intensifying existing levels of vi-

olence expressed by youth throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The perceived disrespect between some gang members and leaders infused with the lyrical content of 'Trinibad' music continues to manifest through the more devious expressions of violence and murders," the report stated.

The report noted that Trinidad and Tobago's major gangs were increasing in size and influence, and that smaller unaligned hybrid gangs, which are technologically savvy and which engage in diverse criminal enterprises simultaneously, were also increasing in quantity.

"Incarcerated gang leaders continued to sanction criminal activities, including targeted killings, narcotics ventures and extortion from prisons, which contributed to the worsening crime landscape in 2023," the report stated.

It said the State had sought to reduce the impunity by which incarcerated gang leaders can influence criminal activity from the confines of prison. "Increasingly observed in 2023 was the proliferation and emergence of hybrid gangs and the amalgamation of some gangs for economic gain...The gang culture in Trinidad and Tobago is escalating and becoming more entrenched across several communities, posing a severe threat throughout the country," the report noted.

The report said the threat level associated with criminal gangs in 2023 was high, with the escalation in violent crimes attributed to vicious gangs fighting increasingly over a range of criminal markets, particularly drug blocks, geographic spheres of influence for robberies and extortion, and social media influence associated with the music industry and the 'Trinibad' genre.

The report also noted the law enforcement community had been penetrated.

Regional News



“Another challenge has been the reports of collusion between a recalcitrant minority of military and law enforcement personnel and the gamut of organised criminal groups and criminal gangs. Our agency continuously provides intelligence advice to our external stakeholders to mitigate these challenges, in keeping with our legislative mandate,” the report stated.

It noted serious crimes that increased in 2023 as compared to 2022 included fraud, larceny of motor vehicles, rape, incest and sexual offences, robberies, serious indecency and wounding and shootings.

The report noted illegal migration, primarily from Venezuela, will continue to be a significant regional concern, placing further stress on the capacity of the Trinidad and Tobago border management systems—including the Coast Guard, Defence Force and Immigration.

The report said law enforcement recorded increased incidents of human smuggling and child prostitution operations in the Caribbean.

“In addition to social conditions that continue to fuel northbound migration, officials noted the presence of human trafficking operations by Chinese nationals operating in The Bahamas and the increased movement of nationals from Asia—particularly from China and India, Africa and Central American countries into the region,” it said.

It predicted there would be increased

incidents of child/human trafficking into the region as vulnerable persons attempt to flee countries in socio-political decline.

The report also warned about the increased use of cyberattacks as a destabilisation tactic against State agencies and private sector companies resulting in the theft of confidential information and disruption of essential sectors.

It also predicted the increased adoption of artificial intelligence by malign actors to execute their agendas.

“Trinidad and Tobago’s high Internet penetration and (high) digitisation drive increase (its) vulnerability to malicious actors owing to the lack of laws and mechanisms to prevent and/or mitigate cyberattacks. Thus increased attacks against private and State institutions are likely,” the report stated.

It added that the virtual space may provide fertile ground for gangs, violent extremist groups and other potential threat actors to propagate anti-State messaging, engage in recruitment, and co-ordinate criminal activities.

On the issue of cyberattacks, it said of concern was the fact that there were over 200 cyber-incidents throughout Trinidad and Tobago reported to the Cyber Security Incident Response Team.

“Trinidad and Tobago faced several high-profile attacks with authorities stating that the majority of ministries

and State agencies remain highly vulnerable to cyberattacks,” the report observed.

On the issue of illicit fentanyl trafficking, the report said information suggests regional organised crime groups (OCGs) are largely not involved in this criminal economy.

“However, OCGs may attempt to exploit this market resulting in new challenges for states including Trinidad and Tobago. Based on observed trends with ketamine, Trinidad and Tobago will likely experience increased trafficking of both illegal fentanyl and fentanyl diverted from medical sources,” the report said.

The report said in 2023, 184 actionable intelligence reports were shared with stakeholders, and an additional 1,546 intelligence reports were produced and shared.

It said based on information provided to the agency by the TTPS and the TTDF, intelligence information provided led to 89 people being arrested, 34 charges against people, six criminal organisations were disrupted, and 24 serious/organised crime ventures were disrupted.

In the area of cyber-risks, the report noted that during 2023, the agency successfully deployed equipment to expand its interception-of-communication capabilities and assisted in the deployment of cellphone jammers in the Maximum Security Prison. (Trinidad Express)

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UN chief condemns massacre in Haiti after gangs killed dozens in fishing village



The killings happened Thursday afternoon in Labordrie, a village located 20 miles north of Haiti's capital, between the cities of Cabaret and Arcahaïe.

Gunmen with the Viv Ansanm gang coalition, who have been fighting for control of Arcahaïe, reportedly stormed the village and opened fire on the population, killing women, children and elderly.

"The Secretary-General is alarmed by the levels of violence rocking Haiti and urges the Haitian authorities to ensure that perpetrators of these and all other human rights abuses and violations are brought to justice," Guterres' spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said in a statement on Saturday strongly condemning the massacre.

Guterres, he said, expresses

his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the people and the government of Haiti. He is also calling on the U.N. Security Council member states "to expedite efforts" toward strengthening the Multi-national Security Support mission with the required logistics, personnel and funding to effectively assist the Haitian national police in addressing gang violence in Haiti in full respect of international human rights law, Dujarric said.

Joseph Louis Baptiste, a local government official in Labordrie, told Port-au-Prince based Radio Caraïbes that the killings preceded days of gun battles that started last weekend. Viv Ansanm, he said, has been trying to take control of Arcahaïe but were being

pushed back by police and a local defense brigade.

"Every time they advanced, the brigade and police attacked them, and they could not penetrate," Baptiste said. But on Wednesday, the armed men entered the town. After killing two people near the ocean, and sending people fleeing in panic, they proceeded to storm the village, he said.

More than 42 residents were executed, Baptiste said, breaking down in tears as he explained a family of four, which included a 4-year-old child, their parents and grandmother, was killed.

"An entire family has been wiped out," he said. "They're people I personally know."

Baptiste said gunmen broke

down the doors of houses and opened fire on "young boys, girls, the elderly, babies." Corpses, he said, were being eaten by dogs.

"There are people hiding, there are people we are looking for and still haven't yet found," he said.

Both Arcahaïe and Cabaret are not far from Canaan, the sprawling post-earthquake settlement on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince that is under the control of a gang named the Taliban under the leadership of Jeff Larose.

During the radio interview, Baptiste pleaded for the central government to deploy armored vehicles to "clean out Canaan."

"Otherwise, they are going to finish off everyone in the community," he said. (Miami Herald)

Trump calls on all NATO countries to stop buying Russian oil, threatens up to 100% tariffs on China

United States President Donald Trump said Saturday he believes the Russia-Ukraine war would end if all NATO countries stopped buying oil from Russia and placed tariffs on China of 50% to 100% for its purchases of Russian petroleum.

Trump posted on his social media site that NATO'S commitment to winning the war "has been far less than 100%" and the purchase of Russian oil by some members of the alliance is "shocking." As if speaking with NATO members, he said: "It greatly weakens your negotiating position, and bargaining power, over Russia."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance of 32 countries from North America and Europe, formed in 1949 to provide collective defence against external threats."

Since 2023, NATO member Turkey has been the third largest buyer of Russian oil, after China and India. according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

Other members of the alliance involved in purchasing Russian oil include Hungary and Slovakia. It's unclear whether Trump would want to directly confront Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan or Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. That leaves uncertain whether the threats might actually lead to new tariffs or a ban on Russian oil purchases.

Trump's post arrives after the Wednesday flight of multiple Russian drones into Poland,



an escalatory move by Russia as it was entering the airspace of a NATO ally. Poland shot down the drones, yet Trump played down the severity of the incursion and Russia's motives by saying it "could have been a mistake."

While Trump as a presidential candidate promised to end the war quickly, he has yet to hit the pressure points needed to end the violence and has at times been seen as reluctant to confront Russian President Vladimir Putin. Congress is currently trying to get the US president to back a bill toughening sanctions, after Trump last month hosted Putin in Alaska for talks that failed to deliver on progress toward peace.

The US and its allies are seeking to show a firmer degree of resolve against Russia. At an emergency UN Security Council meeting Friday, acting US Ambassador Dorothy Shea said America "will defend every inch of NATO territory" and that the drones entering Poland "intentionally or otherwise show immense disrespect for good-faith U.S. efforts to bring an end to this conflict."

Britain on Friday also took steps to penalise the trading of Russian oil, including a ban on 70 vessels allegedly used in its transportation. The United Kingdom also sanctioned 30 individuals and companies, included businesses based in China and Turkey, that have supplied Russia with electronics, chemicals, explosives and other weapons components.

Trump in his post Saturday said a NATO ban on Russian oil plus tariffs on China would "also be of great help in ENDING this deadly, but RIDICULOUS, WAR."

The president said that NATO members should put the 50% to 100% tariffs on China and withdraw them if the war that launched with Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine ends. "China has a strong control, and even grip, over Russia," he posted, and powerful tariffs "will break that grip."

The US president has already imposed a 25% import tax on goods from India, specifically for its buying of Russian energy products. He has placed in total a 50% tariff on India, though Trump has in-

dictated that negotiations with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could help settle differences.

The prospect of further import tax hikes on China and its retaliation could carry collateral damage for the US and European economies.

Earlier this year, Trump hit Chinese goods with new tariffs totaling 145%, prompting China to respond with 125% import taxes on American goods. Taxes at that level were essentially a blockade on commerce between the world's two largest economies, causing worries about global growth that led to negotiations that ratcheted down the tariffs being levied by both nations.

So that trade talks could proceed, America lowered its tariffs against China to a still-high 30%, while China took its rate to 10%.

In his post, the Republican president said responsibility for the war fell on his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He did not include in that list Putin, who launched the invasion.

Trump's post builds on a call Friday with finance ministers in the Group of Seven, a forum of industrialised democracies. During the call, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called on their counterparts to have a "unified front" to cut off "the revenues funding Putin's war machine," according to Greer's office. (Jamaica Gleaner)

DR Congo begins vaccinating against new Ebola outbreak



The Democratic Republic of Congo began on Sunday a vaccine programme against a fresh Ebola epidemic, which has killed 28 people in the country since late August.

A first load of 400 doses against the often fatal viral disease was handed out in the hotspot town of Bulape, in the central Kasai province, the World Health Organization said.

The last outbreak of Ebola in the vast central African nation was three years ago and killed six people. Its deadliest, lasting from 2018 to 2020, left 2,300 dead out of 3,500 people known to have been infected.

According to the latest toll from the Congolese health authorities on Sun-

day, 28 deaths and 81 confirmed cases have been registered since the first confirmed infection of a pregnant 34-year-old woman on August 20.

The WHO believes the fatality rate from this epidemic, which was declared in early September, to be around 35 percent.

The first shipment of vaccines was handed out to those most at risk from the virus, including frontline health workers and close contacts of infected people, the WHO statement said.

Delivery of another 45,000 vaccines to the DRC had been approved by the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision, the United Nations health agency added.

Ebola was first identified in the DRC, then known as Zaire, in 1976.

In the last half-century the virus, which is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids, has gone on to kill around 15,000 in Africa.

The disease causes severe bleeding and organ failure, with the WHO recording epidemic fatality rates of between 25 and 90 percent.

Scientists have identified six strains of the Ebola virus, with the Zaire strain believed to be responsible for the latest outbreak.

While there is a vaccine for the Zaire strain, not all of the others are covered by vaccines. (AFP)

Kirk murder suspect lived with trans partner - Utah governor

The man arrested over conservative influencer Charlie Kirk's assassination was romantically involved with a transgender roommate and described by family as leftist, Utah's governor said Sunday, confirming details likely to inflame the contentious national debate over the killing.

"Yes I can confirm that," Governor Spencer Cox told CNN's "State of the Union" talk show when asked about suspect Tyler Robinson's reported relationship with a trans partner.

The man arrested over conservative influencer Charlie Kirk's assassination was romantically involved with a transgender roommate and described by family as leftist, Utah's governor said Sunday, confirming details likely to inflame the contentious national debate over the killing.

"The roommate was a romantic partner, a male transitioning to a female," Cox said.

"This partner has been incredibly cooperative, had no idea that this was happening, and is working with investigators right now," he added.

Cox went on to stress that it was not yet clear whether the partner's transitioning was part of the alleged



shooter's mindset to kill Kirk, a close ally of US President Donald Trump.

"I'm not sure about that piece right now," Cox said. "Again, all of these things — we're trying to figure out."

Several US media outlets had reported Robinson's relationship with a transgender individual on Saturday, sparking fury by far-right activists.

Laura Loomer, a conservative podcaster who has Trump's ear, posted repeatedly on Saturday about the conspiracy theories, wondering openly whether "there is a Trans terror cell that groomed Tyler Robin-

son."

"It's time to designate the Trans movement as a terrorist movement," she wrote.

Elon Musk, the world's richest person and owner of X, retweeted a post by someone arguing for a ban on transgender hormone therapy.

"Absolutely," Musk wrote in a one-word reply.

Kirk, who was shot dead Wednesday during a speaking event on a Utah university campus, was a strong critic of the transgender rights movement.

Cox, who was widely praised this past week for

urging Americans to lower the toxic political temperature, told The Wall Street Journal on Saturday it was clear to investigators that Richardson had been "deeply indoctrinated with leftist ideology."

On Sunday, he did not repeat the same phrasing, but said such information was told to investigators about Robinson by "people around him, from his family members and friends."

Asked specifically about what relatives said Robinson told them about Kirk, Cox said Robinson told them he was "not a fan." (AFP)

Dorne leads WI Under-19s to series win in 6th ODI



The West Indies Under-19 cricket team.

West Indies Under-19 skipper Joshua Dorne led from the front with bat and ball as his side secured a tense three-wicket victory over Sri Lanka Under-19s in the sixth Youth One Day International at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Friday.

Dorne, an off-spinner, grabbed two wickets to be the pick of the bowlers, but Sri Lanka still posted a formidable 287 for six in their 50 overs after they were sent in to bat.

With the Windies languishing on 125 for five in their run chase, Dorne then hit a match winning 95 to stage a spectacular recovery that saw the home side achieve victory by scoring 289 for seven with eight balls remaining in the contest.

The victory gave the West Indies an unassailable 4-2 lead in their best-of-seven series, with the final ODI slated to be played at the same venue in Antigua on Monday.

Needing a win to level the series, Sri Lanka were given the perfect start by openers Viran Chamuditha and Dimantha Mahavithana, who put on 114

for the first wicket.

Dorne broke the stand when he had Mahavithana stumped for 49 and he also accounted for the second wicket to fall, that of Senuja Wekunagoda for 12, to leave Sri Lanka at 142 for two.

Chamuditha looked set on reaching three figures before Brendan Boodoo bowled him for 88 off 85 balls, adorned with 10 fours.

The Windies then snared three wickets for just 10 runs as Sri Lanka stumbled to 197 for five, but an unbeaten half century from Vimath Dinsara, who scored 58 off 57 balls with four sixes, propelled the visitors to a competitive total.

In reply, the West Indies Under-19s found themselves under immediate pressure when opener Micah Greenidge was dismissed for a “duck” with the third ball of the innings.

Zachary Carter scored 31 in a partnership of 47 for the second wicket with Tyriek Bryan. But when Carter was dismissed by Sethmika Seneviratne for 31, Earshino Fontaine fol-

lowed shortly after for just two, to see the Windies slip to 56 for three in the 14th over.

Bryan, who scored a patient 52 off 90 balls, then added 60 runs with Dorne before he became one of Vigneshwaran Akash’s three wickets, and six runs later, Brendan Boodoo was back in the pavilion after scoring six, to put Sri Lanka in control at 125 for five in the 30th over.

But Dorne and Jonathan Van Lange frustrated the visitors’ bowlers during a partnership of 115 for the sixth wicket that changed the complexion of the match.

Van Lange eventually fell to a return catch to Akash for an even 50 off 43 balls, and Dorne was dismissed five runs short of a deserved century with the Windies still requiring 27 runs for victory.

Shaquan Belle then put the finishing touches on an impressive fightback, scoring an unbeaten 21 off just 13 deliveries. Akash finished with three for 41, and Seneviratne claimed two for 40.

Amazon Warriors move into CPL playoffs with dramatic win over Kings

Dwaine Pretorius hit a six off the last ball of the match to lift the Guyana Amazon Warriors to a thrilling two-wicket win over defending champs St. Lucia Kings and cement their place in the playoffs of the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at the National Stadium in Guyana on Saturday.

Needing three runs off the final ball bowled by Kings' captain David Wiese to overhaul their total of 185 for four, Pretorius got under a low full toss and sent it back over the bowler's head for a six to propel the Amazon Warrior to victory at 188 for eight and send the packed stands at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, into a frenzy.

The victory was an important one for the Amazon Warriors as it not only ended a two-game losing streak, but it also booked their place in the playoffs while eliminating the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots from playoff contention.

Additionally, a win over the bottom-placed Barbados Royals in their final preliminary game on Sunday night would propel them into one of the all-important top two spots.

The Amazon Warriors' victory was set up by Player-of-the-Match Quentin Sampson, who hit 76 off 39 balls, including seven fours and five sixes. Samson's knock and Shai Hope, who made 44 off 34 balls, put the Warriors in a strong posi-



Guyana Amazon Warriors' Dwaine Pretorius, center, celebrate with teammate Gu-dakesh Motie, right, after hitting the winning runs in their CPL's match against the St. Lucia Kings at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Saturday, September 13, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

tion.

After Ben McDermott was dismissed for 17 to leave the score 37 for one in the fifth over, Sampson, who was promoted to open the innings, and Hope shared a 66-run second-wicket partnership.

Sampson hit David Wiese for two boundaries in the sixth over and followed it up by whacking Delano Potgieter for a six and a four in the next over to move into the 40s. He then brought up his maiden CPL half-century off 27 balls by thumping pacer Keon Gaston for two consecutive sixes in the ninth over.

Roston Chase finally got the breakthrough when he dismissed Sampson to leave

the Warriors at 103 for two in the 12th over.

Samson's dismissal triggered a middle order collapse that saw the Warriors lose Shimron Hetmyer (0), Shamarh Brooks (5), Hassan Khan (7) and Romario Shepherd (6) in quick succession to slump to 133 for six.

Hope stepped up the tempo during a 28-run partnership with Moeen Ali in three overs before he was eventually caught trying to hit Wiese out of the ground.

With two overs remaining, the Warriors needed 23 runs, with pacer Keon Gaston conceding 11 runs in the penultimate over.

Ali was run out for 17 off the third ball trying to

scramble a second run, and the equation came down to three runs off the last delivery, where Pretorius stepped up to the plate.

Chase ended with three for 30, while leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi took two for 31 for the Kings.

Pretorius' late game heroics ruined a magnificent performance from Chase, who slammed a superb, unbeaten 90 from 55 balls, which propelled the Kings to a competitive total.

Chase struck six fours and five sixes during his innings and together with Ackeem Auguste, who scored an even half-century (50), added 90 runs in nine overs for the third wicket. Pretorius took two for 36.

Royals send Knight Riders to third consecutive loss in CPL



Chris Green, second left, celebrates with his Barbados Royals' teammates during their Men's Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League match against the Trinbago Knight Riders at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Friday, September 12, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

The Barbados Royals ended their miserable home stand in the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) campaign in winning fashion by upstaging the Trinbago Knight Riders by seven wickets in Barbados on Friday night.

Playing their final match of the season at Kensington Oval, off-spinner Chris Green mesmerised the Knight Riders' batters on his way to finishing with the impressive figures of three wickets for nine runs from his four overs, as the visitors were limited to 166 for eight from their 20 overs.

Opener Quinton de Kock then scored a half-century to see the Royals stroll to 172 for three in 19 overs, to register just their second win in five games at home.

A win would have sent the Knight Riders to the top of the table, but they will now have to wait on the outcomes of the Guyana Amazon Warriors' final match to see if they finish in the top two.

The Knight Riders will be concerned with their batting heading into the playoffs, as they produced yet another mediocre performance after being sent in by the Royals.

Only captain Nicholas Pooran, who scored 45 from 44 balls, Kieron Pollard, who hit 36 off 25 balls, and Akeal Hosein, who smashed a whirlwind, unbeaten 23 off just six balls, put up any resistance against the Royals' bowlers.

Green accounted for both openers, Colin Munro (4) and Alex Hales (15), cheaply, to reduce the Knight Riders to 28 for two in the fourth over.

And when Joshua Da Silva (7) and Keacy Carty (8) lost their wickets, their side had slumped to 41 for four in the eighth over. Pooran and Pollard then added 71 runs for the fifth wicket in eight overs as they tried to rebuild the innings.

However, once Pollard lost his wicket, the Knight Riders needed Hosein's cameo, which saw him bludgeon three sixes and one four to get up to a re-

spectable total.

Green received good support from seamer Daniel Sams (2-25), and pacer Ramon Simmonds, who took two for 42.

The Royals then gave their supporters something to shout about during an 87-run opening partnership between de Kock and Kadeem Alleyne.

Alleyne struck two fours and two sixes in his knock of 36 off 27 balls before he was spectacularly caught by Andre Russell coming in off the deep midwicket boundary.

Soon after, de Kock brought up his 50 off 31 balls, but spinner Usman Tariq dismissed him for 55 and Rassie van der Dussen (7) in quick succession to leave the Royals 116 for three in the 13th over.

But Sherfane Rutherford (32 not out) and captain Rovman Powell (27 not out) then guided the Royals to victory during an unbroken fourth-wicket stand of 56 in just over five overs. Tariq finished with two for 23.

Seville delivers in style for world 100 meters gold

TOKYO (Reuters) - Oblique Seville scorched to the world 100 meters gold in a personal best 9.77 seconds on Sunday, leading a Jamaican 1-2 ahead of Olympic silver medallist Kishane Thompson, second again in 9.82.

Defending champion Noah Lyles took bronze in a season's best 9.89 seconds as the United States failed to take the title for the first time since 2015 when Usain Bolt won the last of his titles.

Bolt, the sport's biggest superstar, was in the stands in Tokyo - the first time since he retired in 2017 - to roar home his compatriots, though he had predicted a Thompson victory earlier in the day.

Seville had looked the man to beat through the rounds in last year's Olympics but finished last in the final. This year he almost had a disaster in the heats, recovering from a dire start, but was back to full sharpness in the semis on a humid Sunday evening. He got another flier in the final and had clear air around him when he crossed the line.

Thompson, beaten by five thousandths of a second by Lyles in the Olympic final, had to settle for silver again, having come to Tokyo with the fastest time by anyone for 10 years - 9.75. Seville's 9.77 takes him into a share of 10th on the all-time list.

"It's an excellent feeling," Seville said. "The last time a Jamaican got a world gold



Jamaica's Oblique Seville reacts after winning the men's 100 meters final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025. (AP)

was in 2016 (Rio Olympics) and that was Usain Bolt. So I am really happy knowing that I actually got the gold medal and I have proved myself that I am a true competitor and I showed my resilience and my fight and determination.

"It is a tremendous feeling. I know my talent and trust in myself. Last year I was injured for the final so this time I've proved myself.

"Everyone was saying in the first round that I am panicking, but I know what I am going through in that moment and I just brushed it aside and proved to myself that I am the champion. I think I have mastered the mental part.

"Finishing strong in the last 30 metres had been a

problem during the season but now I have perfected it and I was confident that if I could do it in the final, I would win. Doing it in front of Usain is a tremendous feeling."

Lyles, who had a delayed start to the season through injury, also had a decent start by his standards but, unlike in so many of his big wins, the world and Olympic champion was unable to make up the ground in the final meters. He looked happy with his medal though and will go again in the 200, seeking a remarkable fourth successive world gold in the event.

"You always want the gold but it's been a crazy season, injury, rushing my season to try and get as many races as possible in," he said.

"I think we did the best we truly could have ever done. I came out here, I got my best start, I got my best race of the year. I'm never going to be disappointed in that."

His US teammate Kenny Bednarek, who crossed the line smiling after dead-heat-ing in 9.85 with Thompson in the semis, cut a very different figure after the final.

He has three global silvers to his name and was desperate to upgrade having arrived in Tokyo ranked second, but had to settle for fourth in 9.92.

Letsile Tebogo, Botswana's Olympic 200-meter champion and 100-meter silver medallist in the world 100-meter two years ago, false-started and was disqualified in the final.

American Jefferson-Wooden wins women's 100 meters world title



United States' Melissa Jefferson-Wooden wins the women's 100 meters final at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025. (AP)

TOKYO (Reuters) - American Melissa Jefferson-Wooden capped a dominant season in some style on Sunday by winning the women's 100 meters world title in 10.61 seconds, the fastest time ever run at a world championships and the fourth quickest of all time.

Tina Clayton confirmed her place at the front of a new generation of Jamaican sprinters by taking silver in a personal best time of 10.76, while bronze went to St. Lucia's Olympic champion Julien Alfred in 10.84.

The race had been billed as a showdown between Jefferson-Wooden and Alfred, but the American flew out of the blocks and established a lead she would never relinquish by the 50-metre mark.

Jefferson-Wooden steamed home to claim her first global title and reaffirm her brilliant form in a season where she has never been beaten over 100 meters, nor clocked a time above 11 seconds.

"It has been an amazing year. I have been dreaming of this moment. Instead of putting the pressure on myself

and taking it as something overwhelming, I was just embracing it," Jefferson-Wooden said.

"When the gun went off, I just thought 'Come on, get out strong'. The rest of the race went like a blink of an eye. When I crossed the line, I was like 'Oh wow, I won'. I haven't felt happier.

"I am excited about the 200 meters now, but I am really happy about this 100 gold."

St. Lucian Alfred had been hoping to win a first world title after her gold at the Paris Olympics last year, when Jefferson-Wooden finished third.

The 24-year-old, who appeared to struggle to get going over the first 20 meters, said she had pulled a hamstring and might not race in the 200 meters, an event she won a silver medal in at the Paris Olympics.

"I am blessed to win this medal. It was not my time today," she said.

Jefferson-Wooden's compatriot Sha'Carri Richardson, who won silver in Paris, fell short in her bid to retain the title she won in Budapest two years ago and finished fifth in 10.94

seconds, her first run under 11 seconds in a disappointing season.

Jamaica's Shericka Jackson pipped her to fourth in 10.88 seconds, while her teammate Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, the winner of 10 sprint world titles, signed off with sixth place in 11.03 seconds in her final meeting before retirement.

"It didn't go as how I wanted it to go," said the 38-year-old Pryce.

"But I think on the bright side. I'm still giving God thanks because I made the finals... To be able to race a final one more time. It's truly a blessing."

While Jackson is also past 30, 21-year-old Clayton's silver proved that there is plenty of promise for the future in Jamaican women's sprinting.

"It is a great feeling to put Jamaica back on the podium on the world stage," said Clayton, whose twin Tia is also a promising sprinter.

"I knew I had to do my best to be able to come through. I knew that I would see the results. It is a great feeling to stand here with this medal on my neck. The performance was what I was looking for."

Byers to coach SAP FC for upcoming season



Peter Byers will take over as the new head coach of SAP FC during the 2025/26 ABFA domestic season. (Photos courtesy of the SAP FC)



Peter 'Big Pete' Byers

mer national player, said taking the reins as head coach of SAP FC is a fulfilment of one of his childhood dreams.

"This is a proud moment for me. SAP is where my football journey began, and to step up now as head coach is truly fulfilling one of my childhood dreams," Byers stated in the press release.

"I want to thank President Hillhouse and the entire club for trusting me with this opportunity. I'm ready to give back and lead our next generation with the same passion I had as a player."

SAP FC finished in third place in last year's First Division League and will be seeking to return to the

Premier Division by gaining promotion at the end of the upcoming season.

SAP FC was relegated from the Premier Division at the end of the 2023/24 season.

Ahead of the start of this year's First Division campaign, SAP FC will commence practice for the new season at the Bolans playing field on Monday at 6:30 pm.

The club said that all players are expected to be there and is also welcoming new players to show up and try out to become new members of the SAP FC.

The new ABFA domestic season is expected to kick off sometime in October.

SAP FC has announced that homegrown talent and veteran player Peter Byers will take charge as the team's new head coach for the 2025/26 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) domestic season.

"From his beginnings at SAP as a player to representing Antigua & Barbuda at the highest level, Peter's football journey has been nothing short of remarkable. Now, he begins a new chap-

ter transitioning from player to coach, right where it all started," said President of SAP FC Akeilah Hillhouse in a press release.

"At SAP FC, we believe in giving our own the platform to grow, and this appointment may have been long overdue. We look forward to seeing his coaching career become just as, if not more, successful than his playing career," Hillhouse added.

Byers, who is a for-