

432 students graduate from the UWI FLC Life Long Learning Unit

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The Life Long Learning Unit of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, held another graduation ceremony on Thursday with a total of 432 persons receiving certificates for successfully completing their courses of study.

Hundreds of persons, including the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, officials of the university, graduates, family and friends, were in attendance at the ceremony held at the campus's Assembly Hall.

Head of the LLLU, Paula Lee, said she is proud that the hunger for continued development and training has gripped Antigua and Barbuda and that this is reflected in the increased number of graduates who receive certificates at these ceremonies.

Sir Rodney presented certificates to the awardees who were all top students in the individual courses.

The top performing student was Mrs. Nickishia Carr-Ramkellawan. She is an employee at CARDI. She undertook four courses and had the highest average. Her employer is said to be



very supportive toward her learning and development pursuits.

This year, the feature address was delivered by UWI FIC Campus Registrar, Dr. Camille Samuel, who underscored the value of listening. "As you move through this world from wherever you are, you must listen, you must respect the voices of others, even if their positions are not at the time well understood, you must move with purpose and relevance and you must lift others.

"You need only look around our region to see where failure to act in this way escalates chaos," she observed. With their new skills and certification, Registrar Samuel stated that the university had armed the graduates for the world that lies ahead. "So, we have armed you to do more and to be a positive force in this world. You have come to us with a natural instinct to want more and to know more. We now expect that you too



will use the shared knowledge to expand your potential and the potential of others," she remarked.

Among the graduating class, were eleven inmates from His Majesty's Prison who participated in the Prison's Seeds of Hope Programme. They all received scholarships to undertake the programme.

Already, the LLLU is announcing that its programme for next year has been published and it is encouraging those who are desirous of attaining new skills to sign up as soon as possible.

Cuba-based students are safe



Antigua and Barbuda's Resident Ambassador to Cuba, George Goodwin,

Reports from Havana, Cuba, have indicated that the Antigua and Barbuda students who are studying in that country are ok...that none has been injured or harmed in any way following the passage of Hurricane Melissa this week.

Antigua and Barbuda's Resident Ambassador to Cuba, George Goodwin, who is currently in St. John's, is reporting that he has been in constant contact with the students and had been advising them on how best to navigate the storm.

"Luckily, most of the 35-40 students are based in Havana and that area was not affected by the storm. However, we did have some in Santiago, which was affected, but they were advised to move to Havana or other locations out of harm's way," Amb. Goodwin stated.

He reported that about two students who were in Santiago are there doing their specialization and were based at a hospital and therefore had to remain to provide medical care to patients. They too emerged from the storm unharmed.

Amb. Goodwin's assessments were confirmed by the St. John's based Cuban Ambassador Sergio Martinez,

who noted that most of the students were in Havana or other western provinces of Cuba that were not affected by Melissa.

He added that only those in the Santiago province were in the direct path of the hurricane, but that some either moved to safe areas and in some cases some returned home ahead of the storm.

Melissa made landfall in Jamaica on Tuesday as a Category 5 hurricane with 185 mph winds before weakening over Cuba. At least 28 people have been reported dead across Haiti and Jamaica, with more missing.

Cuba evacuated over 735,000 residents ahead of the storm and has begun recovery efforts, including restoring power and distributing food and medicine. Communication lines largely remained open during the hurricane, allowing coordination and family contact.

Independence is here !!!!

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Venezuela Sends Humanitarian Aid to Cuba and Jamaica

The Venezuelan government is reaching out to two sister Caribbean territories that have been have suffered from the strong winds and rain from Hurricane Melissa.

The Foreign Minister stated that this operation was activated following the substantial damage caused by Hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean, which generated intense rains, strong winds, and infrastructure damage in Jamaica, and significant damage in Cuba.

The Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, Yván Gil, led the shipment of humanitarian aid to Cuba and Jamaica on Thursday. These Caribbean nations were affected by Hurricane Melissa, and the aid serves as a demonstration of the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela's spirit of support and solidarity with the peoples of the world

He detailed that, in the first phase, 26 tons of supplies are being sent to Cuba Thursdy via the national airline Conviasa. These supplies include food, single and double mattresses, medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, diclofenac, and omeprazole, as well as medical supplies and equipment such as adhesives, gowns for surgeons and patients, surgical caps, sterile gloves, and standard wheelchairs.

Gil explained that they are preparing to send a ship with more than 3,000 tons of additional aid, scheduled to depart in the coming days.

Regarding Jamaica, the minister reported that an estimated 20 tons of aid are expected to be sent.

The Jamaican shipment, which will be delivered to the island by the Vice Minister for the Caribbean, Raúl Li Causi, consists of a variety of essential items to address the immediate needs of the affected population, including mattresses, food, medicine, and medical supplies, among other basic necessities.



The Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, Yván Gil

The diplomat contrasted this with other countries focusing on the Caribbean to create instability and threaten peace; Venezuela, he noted, is stepping forward, and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) is leading the way to offer its solidarity.

He also highlighted that the humanitarian operation coincides with the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement between Cuba and Venezuela by Commanders Hugo Chávez Frías and Fidel Castro Ruz, which was the "seed of what is today the true union of our peoples," a system based on solidarity, beyond mere trade.

The Foreign Minister recalled Cuba's invaluable aid to Venezuela 25 years ago, following the legacy of poverty inherited from the Fourth Republic, when the island sent the first doctors and teachers who enabled the creation of missions such as Barrio Adentro and Robinson. "Today we are reciprocating that solidarity," he affirmed.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Venezuela, Jorge Luis Mayo, expressed his profound gratitude for

the assistance, highlighting it as a constant manifestation of the brotherhood between both peoples and governments. He indicated that his country systematically receives this social and material support from the sister Bolivarian nation.

He pointed out that the United States' blockade policy has prevented Cuba from achieving fiscal recovery and strengthening its capacity to confront meteorological phenomena.

In this regard, he emphasized Bolivarian diplomacy: "While the empire betrays countries, here we don't receive threats, we receive medicine, which is what the people truly need."

He described the comprehensive cooperation agreement signed 25 years ago as an exemplary agreement for how relations between nations should be conducted.

This solidarity aid operation is an example not only for the region but for the world, demonstrating how South-South cooperation should be—a legacy of Commanders Chávez and Fidel, in accordance with the principles of ALBA-TCP.

Cuban Ambassador hails UN vote calling for an end to the blockage of the island



Cuban Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Sergio Martinez, is hailing Wednesday's vote at the United Nations where the vast majority of nations voted to end the United States economic and financial blockade of the island.

That included Antigua and Barbuda. Amb. Martinez said that one hundred and sixty-five (165) countries voted in favour of the resolution. Seven countries voted in favour of the resolution while 12 countries abstained.

"This shows that there is strong support for Cuba in our call for the end of the US economic and financial blockade which has stifled Cuba's development for the past 60 years," he stated. With 165 votes in favor, the Caribbean nation achieved another victory this Wednesday. Against the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the US more than 60 years ago. The debates held this Tuesday foreshadowed a victory backed by the international community.

This is the 33rd consecutive time the General Assembly has voted on the draft resolution demanding an end to this policy. Which has been rejected by the majority of member states. The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly called on Wednesday

for an end to the US embargo against Cuba.

A unilateral imposition denounced by Havana since 1992. The seven votes against this year came from Argentina, the United States, Hungary, Israel, North Macedonia, Paraguay, and Ukraine.

Moreover, the 12 abstentions were from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Moldova, Romania, and Poland.

From March 1st, 2024, to February 28th, 2025, the embargo caused Cuba material damages estimated at \$7.5561 billion. Representing a 49 percent increase compared to the previous period, the document specifies.

Antigua and Barbuda has been a dependable support of Cuba's struggle to end the US embargo.



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Festivals Commission releases first-ever Independence music video



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) announces the release of its first-ever Independence video, “Cape” by Empress. The music video was launched to celebrate the nation’s 44th Independence Anniversary.

As the executive producer, the Commission decided to feature Empress’s uplifting anthem “Cape,” which beautifully embodies the spirit of patriotism, unity, and pride in being Antiguan and Barbudans. The track was chosen as the inspirational soundtrack for this year’s Independence patriotic campaign, which aligns perfectly with the national theme, “Solid, Stable, Soaring.”

Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Daryll S. **Matthew**, expressed his full support for the initiative, stating, “I was pleased when the Commission pitched this



campaign. It was only fitting to bring this song to life during our Independence celebrations, as it represents who we are as a people: Solid, Stable, and Soaring. We are achieving great things in Antigua and Barbuda and on the world stage, carrying our flag with pride. I have also noted how much our children are gravitating to this song, and I hope this video provides them with a deeper understanding and meaning, inspiring them to do

great things while carrying the flag as their cape.”

Artist **Empress** expressed her heartfelt gratitude, saying, “I am truly humbled that the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission chose my song ‘Cape’ for this year’s Independence campaign. The flag of Antigua and Barbuda holds deep personal significance for me, and it’s inspiring to know that it resonates with others.”

The ABFC encourages all

citizens and friends of Antigua and Barbuda to watch the official “Cape” video and celebrate the pride, strength, and resilience that define us as a nation. Whether here at home or on the global stage, let us continue to carry our flag proudly, like a cape, as we soar to greater heights.

Video link:- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gZ-Pv4JXDeuVjjDFHE4T-9GIqEx1oWioMM/view?usp=drive_web



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCES THE CHRISTMAS HOME AND BUSINESS LIGHTING COMPETITION 2025:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday 01st, October 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.....*
The Department of Creative Industries is pleased to announce the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition 2025.

We aim to evoke the spirit of the season through the creative and dazzling lighting display of our 2025 competitors, the Department encourages all interested Home and Business owners to register for the competition on or before Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Registration Forms are available Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Creative Industries Headquarters on Old Parham Road, upstairs INET or the National Festivals Office, 1st Floor Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20th and 21st December, 2025, while the final displays will be judged on December 28, 2025. Winners will be announced via Good Morning Antigua, Barbuda on Friday, January 5th 2026.

Home entries will be categorized and judged according to the zones – East, West, North, and South. All Home participants will receive a 100% waiver on electricity service for December 15th 2025 to January 15th 2026, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners in each zone as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Business entries will receive a 50% waiver on electricity service for December 2025, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Register now to be a part of the joy and splendor of Christmas 2025.

END.

WIOC announces a new date for its AGM



The West Indies Oil Company has announced a new date for its annual general meeting. The new date is November 27, 2025.

The meeting was scheduled for earlier this month but was postponed due to the passage of a tropical storm.

“The meeting will be

held at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Center on Factory Road, St. John’s, Antigua at 5:30 PM on November 27th, 2025.

The postponement of the meeting was occasioned by the tropical storm watch issued by the Antigua and Barbuda Met Office during the passage

of tropical storm Jerry. Fortunately, however, we have received feedback on the draft Bylaws and have included with this circular, a set of recommended amendments to the draft Bylaws and the text of the special resolution to adopt the draft bylaws, with amendments to be considered and voted on at the annual general meeting,” a notice sent to all shareholders stated.

Along with the notice, the company also shared several documents that

will be essential for those shareholders who attend the meeting in person, via proxy or online.

“These documents are essential for your participation in the meeting. You are encouraged to review them carefully and participate in the meeting informed by the information in the documents.

Your attendance and contribution to what we hope will be a very productive AGM is anticipated,” the notice concluded.



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Thank you sponsors

Your support helped us raise funds for Breast Friends and the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Oncology Department, who help so many Antiguan and Barbudans in their fight against cancer.

As we cross the finish line on another successful Walk for the Cure, we'd like to thank all the girls, boys, women and men who participated in the Walk, as well as each of our sponsors for your support making this event possible.

Together, we are able to make a significant contribution to our fundraising efforts for these critical organisations.



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A helpful donation goes to the Denis Bowers Rehabilitation Centre



Director of Tourism at the USA Office, Dean Fenton on Friday paid a visit to the Denis Bowers Rehabilitation Centre (formerly the Boys Training School) in Willikies, Antigua, to make a timely and purposeful donation of essential care items.

The Denis Bowers Rehabilitation Centre, officially re-launched in February 2025, marks a new chapter in Antigua and Barbuda's efforts to transform youth rehabilitation. The facility—rebranded from the Boys Training School, now stands on a foundation of holistic rehabilitation, education, and reintegration under its guiding motto: "Building Brighter Futures Together."

Recognizing the Centre's vital role, Fenton, himself an Antiguan living and working abroad, ex-

pressed that giving back is not merely a responsibility but a calling. "As Antiguan, wherever we are in the world, it is our privilege and our duty to give back to our homeland in any way we can," he said. "What the DBRC is doing here is truly transformative. It's not just about rehabilitation, it's about restoration. It's about giving these young men the belief that there is a better path, a right path, and a future filled with purpose."

The donation—which included sports care items, hydration supplies, essential toiletries, and a range of vitamins and supplements, was made to enhance the boys' overall health, hygiene, and well-being as they continue their journey toward personal growth and reintegration.

In his remarks shared with

the Centre's Director, Randy Christopher, and the matron and staff, Fenton extended heartfelt encouragement to continue their invaluable work. He emphasized the importance of inspiring the young men to see beyond their current circumstances and to envision themselves as future leaders. "You could be the next Minister of Tourism, or any leader you aspire to become," he said. "Life doesn't end here, it goes beyond. Their stories are still being written."

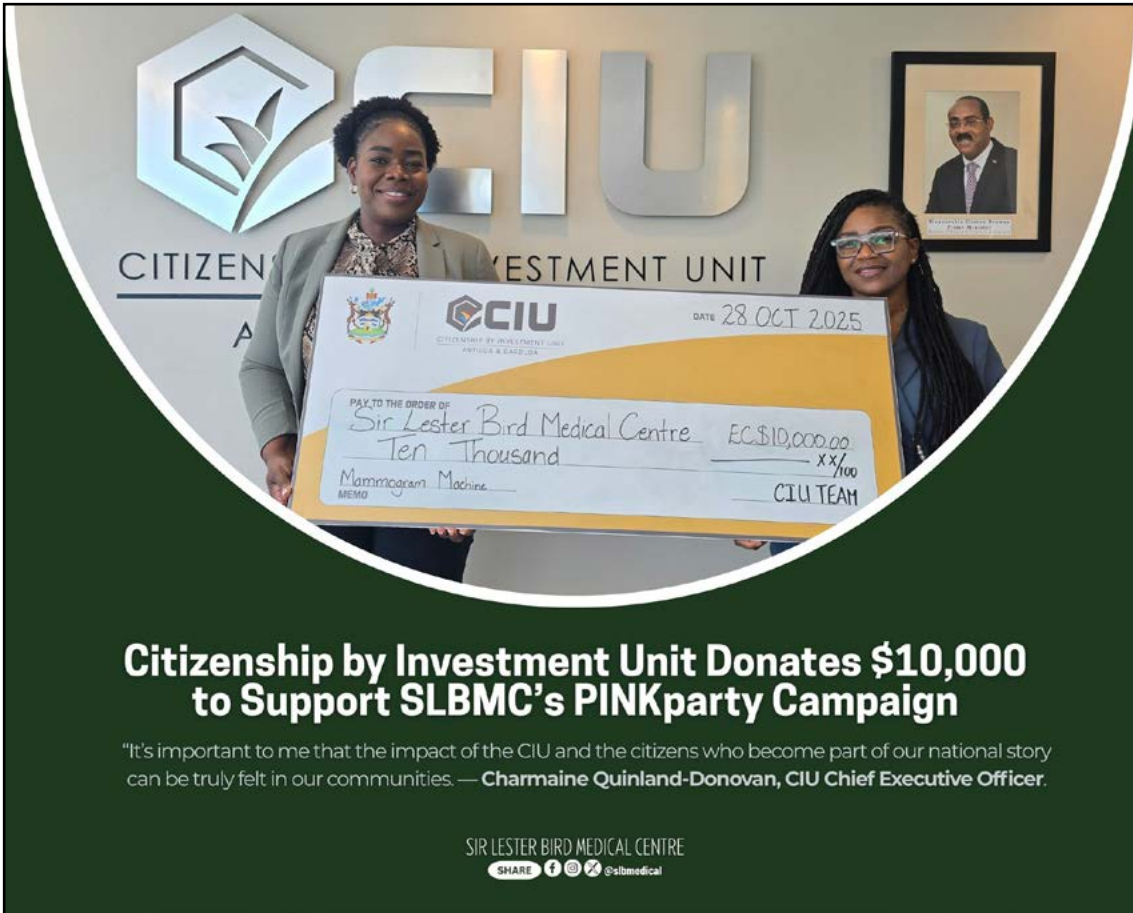
Christopher expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the management and staff, noting the significance of the gesture and its impact on morale. "On behalf of the Denis Bowers Rehabilitation Centre, we extend our sincere appreciation for journeying here, not just to Antigua and Barbuda, but to Willikies and our

Centre, to make this generous contribution," he said. "Your support and your words of encouragement go a long way in motivating both our team and the young men we serve."

Following a guided tour of the facility, Mr Fenton commended the Centre's holistic rehabilitative approach, which emphasizes education, emotional wellness, discipline, and vocational skills to prepare residents for a successful reintegration into society.

The visit and donation, coordinated by Angelica O'Donoghue, form part of a broader effort to engage civic society, the private sector, and members of the Antiguan and Barbudan diaspora in supporting key institutions that nurture and empower the nation's next generation.

Citizenship by Investment Unit Donates \$10,000 to Support SLBMC's PINKparty Campaign



The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has received a generous EC\$10,000.00 donation from the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) in support of its 13th annual PINKparty breast cancer awareness and fundraising campaign.

This year marks a milestone for the campaign—the most funds ever raised since its launch—as SLBMC continues its mission to strengthen breast cancer care and awareness in Antigua and Barbuda. Proceeds from the 2025 campaign will go toward the

hospital's goal of purchasing a new mammogram system, valued at approximately EC\$250,000.00.

The CIU's contribution is part of its ongoing partnership with SLBMC, having also served as a sponsor of this year's Multidisciplinary Cancer Symposium, which brought together healthcare professionals from across the region to discuss innovative approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Charmaine Quinland-Donovan, Chief Executive Officer of the CIU,

said the donation reflects the Unit's commitment to creating a meaningful and lasting impact in the community.

"It's important to me that the impact of the CIU and the citizens who become part of our national story can be truly felt in our communities. Healthcare touches everyone and supporting SLBMC's PINKparty campaign allows us to play a meaningful role in advancing cancer awareness and care."

Salma Crump, SLBMC Head of Marketing and Communications, ex-

pressed gratitude for the CIU's partnership and underscored the connection between national development and community health.

"We're incredibly grateful to the CIU for their continued support and belief in the work we're doing. It's inspiring to see how the CIU and by extension, our new citizens, are helping to strengthen healthcare for all. Every contribution brings us closer to our goal. We're not far from raising \$100,000, and I firmly believe we can do it."

Crump added that while October marks the close of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the effort continues.

"The end of October doesn't mean the end of the conversation. Breast cancer awareness is year-round. You can still give, and you can still show your support by purchasing a commemorative PINKparty T-shirt or by making a donation of any amount."

To support the campaign or purchase a PINKparty T-shirt, visit Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre or contact the hospital's Marketing and Communications Department at info@msjmc.gov.ag or 484-2711/92



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2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 OCT - 03 NOV

SATURDAY 25 OCT

- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
5:00PM

SUNDAY 26 OCT

- **INDEPENDENCE CHURCH SERVICE**
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH CREEKSIDE
4:00PM

MONDAY 27-29 OCT

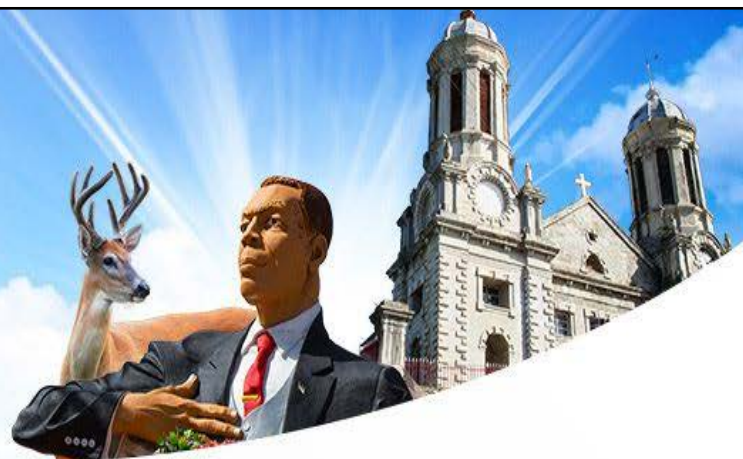
- **NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
BUSINESS DECOR COMPETITION**

MONDAY 27 OCT

- **NATIONAL HEROES DAY
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**
HEROES PARK- SIR SYDNEY WALLINGS HIGHWAY
10:00 AM

TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS**
ST. ANTHONY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
8:00PM



TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES (TBC)**

WEDNESDAY 29 OCT

- **SCHOOLS' INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS**
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE
- **GOLDEN AGE CELEBRATIONS**
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
- **THEATRICAL PRESENTATION
"WADADLI ROOTS"**
MULTIPURPOSE CULTURAL CENTRE
7:30PM

THURSDAY 30 OCT

- **NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY** 8:30AM
- **CHEERLEADING COMPETITION** 11:30AM
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
- **INDEPENDENCE CALYPSO COMPETITION**
JACK IDLE
8:00PM

FRIDAY 31 OCT

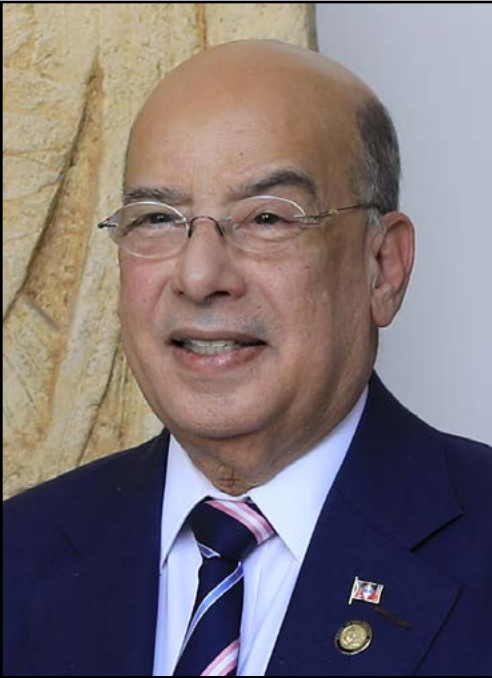
- **NATIONAL DRESS DAY**
- **NATIONAL FLAG DAY**

MONDAY 03 NOV

- **INDEPENDENCE FLAG CEREMONY**
BARBUDA
9:00AM
- **NATIONAL FOOD FAIR**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
10:00AM UNTIL
- **INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIAL
PARADE & NATIONAL AWARDS**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
5:30PM



Coercion in Daylight: The World Must Outlaw Arbitrary Detention



By Sir Ronald Sanders

The practice has an ugly name and an uglier intent: *arbitrary detention in State-to-State relations means this: tyrannical regimes seize innocents to make other governments submit to their wishes.* As I said on October 28, 2025, at the United Nations, this is “not diplomacy; it is coercion in daylight.” The principle at stake concerns every nation, large or small.

For large powers, such acts of arbitrary arrest and detention are an affront. For small states, they are a tough trial of their capacity to defend their citizens. Small countries have neither vast consular networks nor military leverage. When their citizens cross borders - to study, to trade, to seek medical care - they travel in the belief that law will protect them. But if the law can be manipulated to turn a student, a journalist, or a businessperson into a hostage with whom to bargain, then traveling citizens of every small state are at risk.

That is why I considered it important to accept the invitation to launch the *Report of the Independent Interna-*

tional Panel on Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations at the United Nations in New York on October 28, 2025. The report is a firm step on the path to giving citizens of small countries a vital layer of protection in a world where tyranny and organized crime thrive in many places.

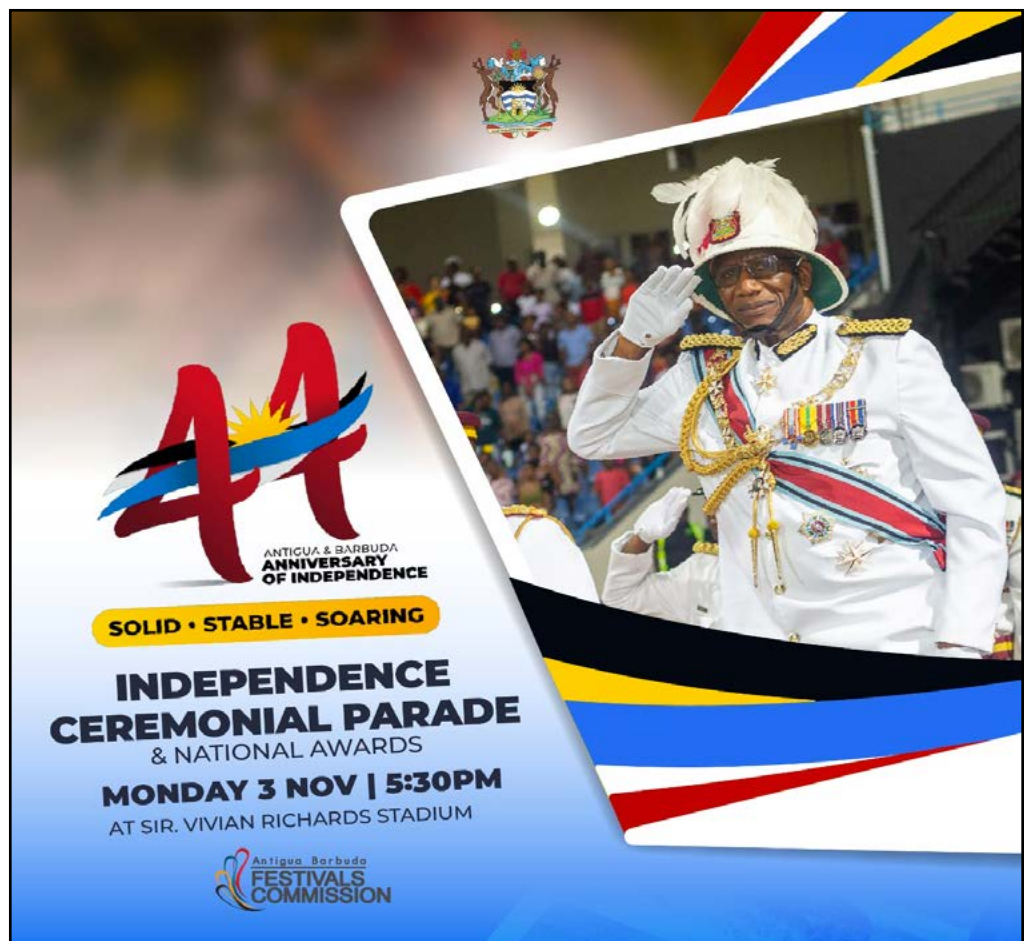
Six eminent jurists formed the Panel. In their report, they expose a hybrid crime - part *hostage-taking*, part *torture*, part *prohibited intervention* - and always, in the words of the Panel, “*a grave abuse of State authority and an affront to human rights and the peaceful conduct of international relations.*”

The Panel’s findings are unflinching. They show that such detentions breach multiple pillars of international law: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Vienna

Convention on Consular Relations, and the 1979 Hostages Convention. Yet because the existing instruments scatter responsibility across different processes, enforcement remains weak. The result is impunity, especially when the perpetrator is powerful.

To close this gap, the Panel proposes that nations should consider requesting an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ). This is Recommendation 26 of the Report, and it deserves the same courage that small states showed in securing the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change. In both cases, the logic is identical: when global norms are endangered by the actions of the strong, the weak must act together to restore the law’s clarity and conscience.

Why the ICJ is an effective route



As climate catastrophe threatens humanity's survival, it was not the major emitters that carried the case to The Hague - it was small islands. Vanuatu, Antigua and Barbuda, and others forged a coalition that asked the Court to pronounce what should have been obvious: that States have legal duties to prevent environmental harm to present and future generations. The Court's July 2025 opinion confirmed those duties and transformed the terrain of climate justice.

The same strategic imagination is now required to confront arbitrary detention. Small states have a collective interest in codifying what conscience already tells us: that a person's liberty must never be collateral in interstate bargaining. The ICJ is the only global body capable of authoritatively declaring that this practice constitutes an internationally wrongful act, violating both human rights and the sovereign equality of States.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, recognized this early. Antigua and Barbuda was the first small state to sign the Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations launched by Canada in 2021, because we understood that protecting our people abroad requires international reinforcement of the law. For small nations, a rules-based order is not a philosophical preference; it is a survival mechanism.

A Constitutional Compass

This cause also resonates deeply within the domestic legal heritage of Canada as well as Commonwealth Caribbean countries. For instance, on November 1, 2025, Antigua and Barbuda's Independence Constitution will mark its 44th anniversary, and central to it—enshrined in *Section 5: Protection of the Right to Personal Liberty*—is the guarantee against arbitrary arrest and detention.

Several Central American and South American countries have similar constitutional provisions, but some governments fail to respect them, particularly in relation to political dissidents.

Where this constitutional architecture is upheld by the governments, it mirrors the very norms that the international community must now entrench. The principle is simple: no one's freedom should depend on power; it should depend on law.

From Declaration to Law

The guiding principles of the Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations are rooted in Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile"—and Article 36 of the Vienna Convention, guaranteeing consular access. But declarations alone do not deter abusers. The Panel

warns that the "fragmented" legal response has emboldened offenders and left victims without remedy. It calls for a coherent body of law—one that unites human-rights obligations, State responsibility, and individual criminal accountability.

An ICJ Advisory Opinion would crystallize these dispersed norms into a single judicial pronouncement, defining the practice as an internationally wrongful act that triggers obligations of cessation, reparation, and non-repetition. The Court's reasoning would guide States, regional bodies, and domestic courts. It would empower the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and give moral and legal weight to sanctions and listing mechanisms. Most importantly, it would tell victims and their families that international law has not abandoned them.

Small states have long been the moral conscience of the international system. They defend the UN Charter because they know that without law, they have no defence at all. As I said at the launch of the Panel's report at the UN, "the law must not be the privilege of the powerful but the protection of the powerless."

(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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Timeless Financial Wisdom



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

Introduction

As an avid reader and lifelong learner, I am always seeking to deepen my understanding by studying the insights of the world's most accomplished thinkers. Recently, I came across a compelling conversation between Warren Buffett and Charlie Munger, two titans of investing on the prin-

ciples of financial management and long-term wealth building. Their wisdom, grounded in simplicity and discipline, resonated deeply with me. In this article, I share the timeless lessons I gleaned from their discourse, with reflections on how these principles can guide us toward financial freedom and peace of mind, especially here in the Caribbean.

In a world where financial uncertainty is the norm and economic shocks are becoming more frequent; the timeless wisdom of Warren Buffett and Charlie Munger offers a refreshing and practical roadmap to financial peace. These two legendary investors have built fortunes not through flashy trends or risky bets, but through discipline, patience, and common sense. Their principles are not just for Wall Street, they are for anyone who wants to live well, retire comfortably, and sleep peacefully at night.

The Simplicity of Spending Less

Buffett often says, "Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving." This simple shift in mindset is the cornerstone of financial health. Living below your means is not about deprivation, it is about freedom. When you consistently spend less than you earn, you create margin. That margin becomes your safety net, your investment capital, and your peace of mind.

Build a Buffer for Life's Storms

In the Caribbean, we know all too well how quickly life can change. Hurricanes, economic downturns, and global pandemics have taught us the value of preparation. Buffett and Munger recommend keeping at least two years' worth of living expenses in cash. This may sound ambitious but even starting with a few months of savings can make a world of difference when the unexpected strikes.

The 4% Rule: A Retirement Lifeline



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One of the most practical pieces of advice is to never withdraw more than 4% of your savings annually in retirement. This guideline helps ensure your money lasts as long as you do. It is a principle rooted in sustainability, not speculation.

Let Time and Interest Work for You

Compound interest is often called the eighth wonder of the world. The earlier you start saving and investing, the more time your money has to grow. Buffett's own wealth is a testament to this principle, he made the majority of his fortune after the age of 50, thanks to decades of compounding.

Emotional Discipline Over Market Hype

Buffett and Munger are famous for their calm in the face of market mania. They do not chase trends or follow the crowd. Instead, they invest in what they understand and hold for the long term. Emotional investing, buying high out of excitement or selling low out of fear is a recipe for regret. Rational thinking and patience are your best allies.

Hard Habits, Soft Life

Financial peace comes from practicing hard habits. Do not spend what you cannot afford. Do not buy things that do not add long-term value. A new car, designer clothes, or the latest gadget might bring momentary joy, but they often come at the cost of long-term stress. Peace of mind is more valuable than prestige.

A Dozen Habits for Financial Freedom

Buffett and Munger's philosophy can be summed up in a dozen habits:

1. Live below your means.
2. Own stock in durable, understandable companies.
3. Hold cash for flexibility.
4. Diversify your investments.
5. Manage impulsive behaviours.
6. Define success as freedom from

worry, not freedom to spend.

7. Value peace over prestige.
8. Spend less than you earn.
9. Invest in what you understand.
10. Ignore market noise.
11. Ask yourself: "How can I live with less?"
12. Practice self-discipline and self-denial.

These are not just financial tips, they are life principles that foster resilience, contentment, and clarity.

Conquering the Enemies Within

Perhaps the most profound insight from Buffett and Munger is the importance of mastering your inner world. The real enemies of financial peace are not external, they are internal: **envy, impatience, lack of self-denial, and self-deception**. Envy leads to comparison and discontent. Impatience pushes us into poor decisions. Lack of

self-denial fuels debt. And self-deception keeps us stuck.

When we conquer these inner battles, we gain more than financial stability, we gain freedom.

A Caribbean Call to Action

For us in Antigua and Barbuda, these lessons are especially timely. As we navigate economic recovery and build a more resilient future, we must embrace principles that promote sustainability, not just survival. Whether you are a young professional, a small business owner, or planning for retirement, the wisdom of Buffett and Munger can guide you.

Let us teach our children to value saving over spending, to invest in what they understand, and to define success not by what they wear or drive, but by the peace they carry.

Financial peace is not a dream. It is a discipline. And it is within reach.



Feature

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
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No More Plastic Paradise

CHAPTER 4: PLASTIC POLLUTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

As youth, we believe that solutions must be bold, creative, and grounded in both innovation and responsibility. These are some of the solutions we have identified to address plastic pollution and waste mismanagement, while building a cleaner, more resilient future for all. We call on governments to do the following:

Research, Innovation & Technology

- Research and promote alternatives to plastic that are sustainable, economically-viable and accessible.
- Investigate the use of national taxes and waste policies and to ensure fair and effective management of waste across the region including through the ban on single use plastic to help stop the problem at its source.
- Leverage apps, data, and technology to track waste, map hotspots, and inform smarter decision-making.
- Promote waste separation through the procurement and roll-out of bins with multiple compartments while educating the population on the importance of waste separation at the source.
- Align with and support the call for the ban on the importation of single-use plastics in the Caribbean region.

Policy, Regulation & Accountability

- Hold manufacturers responsible by requiring product return and recycling initiatives and/or Extend Producer Responsibility (EPR), exploring linkages with carbon credits, and enforcing polluters to pay for the waste and emissions they create.
- Strengthen enforcement of plastic and waste management rules and regulations.
- Address the misallocation of tax revenue collected, ensuring a portion of funds collected from businesses and consumers are channelled into and used effectively for waste management activities.
- Establish waste management standards that meet global best practices.
- Call for strong political will, recognizing that leadership and accountability are essential.
- Empower national waste authorities (for e.g. the National Solid Waste Management Authority in Jamaica) with the tools and resources they need such as increased funding and technological advancement that supports collection and separation of waste.

Education & Community Engagement

- Prioritize education, building awareness and changing behaviour at all levels of society.
- Create innovative initiatives where individuals, businesses, and events can contribute to sustainable solutions that help to reduce unnecessary waste.
- Recognize that waste comes from every sector, from households to industries.

Caribbean Youth Declaration on Environment and Climate Justice

12

A bottle here, a bag out there,
The sea now chokes on what we share.
A paradise wrapped, thrown away —
Can we afford to live this way?

In Kingston's hall, the youth declared,
"The plastic war must be repaired!"

"Solving the waste and plastic crisis is not a choice but an obligation to current and future generations." — *Caribbean Youth*

Declaration on Environment and Climate Justice

From Antigua's coast to Port of Spain,
We see the plastic in the rain.
The Youth Declaration calls aloud —

To lead with action, firm and proud.

Research and tech must light the road,
To track our waste and share the load.
Smart apps, data, and tools combine,
To keep our land and oceans fine.

"Research and promote alternatives to plastic that are sustainable, economically viable and accessible." — *CYCC Youth Declaration, Chapter 4*

Policy next — where power lies,
Hold firms to truth, expose disguise.

"Hold manufacturers responsible through product return and recycling, enforcing polluters to pay for the waste they create."
— *CYCC Youth Declaration*

It's time for leaders to be bold,
And treat the truth that must be told:
Plastic is profit's easy friend,
But greed will bring the ocean's end.

Education too — a seed we sow,
So every child and elder know:
From homes to schools, to shops and fairs,
Recycling works when everyone cares.

Campaigns in classrooms, clean-up drives,
Keep island hearts and hope alive.
The Declaration's youthful plea,
Is simple: teach responsibility.

Then planning — where the circle spins,
Where nothing ends and reuse wins.
Resource efficiency, bold and clear,
A greener cycle every year.

"Develop waste management plans aligned

with a circular economy, ensuring that nothing goes to waste and upstream measures are included.” — *CYCC Youth Declaration, Chapter 4*

And finally, holistic view —



On land, at sea, the sky above too.

“Address waste on land, in the sea, and in the air, leaving no blind spots.” — *CYCC Youth Declaration, Chapter 4*

The UN Environment Assembly warns,
One truck of plastic every dawn
Is dumped into the ocean’s chest —
A truth we cannot just digest.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres reminds:

“Plastic pollution has become an epidemic. We must act now with urgency and unity to end our addiction to plastic.” — *United Nations Environment Programme, 2023*

The UN SDG 12 takes the stage,
“Ensure sustainable consumption” — gauge!
While SDG 14 cries from below,
“Reduce marine pollution — let action flow!”
And SDG 13 adds to the plea:
“Take urgent climate action — for humanity.”

From bottles chained to record goals,
To caps reused for artful roles.
Each act reminds, each hand redeems,
That small steps grow into big dreams.

Yet progress needs more structured might —
We can’t depend on will alone or sight.
Governments must enforce and plan,
To build capacity in every land.

“Empower national waste authorities with tools and resources — increased funding and technological advancement — that support collection and separation of waste.” — *CYCC Youth Declaration, Chapter 4*

The Caribbean Youth call us to see,
That waste reform is equity.
It’s not just bins and bags and bans,
It’s dignity in island hands.

Because when waste is left unchecked,
It mirrors systems that neglect.
It’s more than trash — it’s governance,
It’s fairness, trust, and consequence.

So let’s refuse, reduce, re-use,
Recycle well — no time to lose.
Let every island find its way,
To make tomorrow clean today.

And let us innovate with pride,
In circular systems far and wide.
Turn waste to wealth, and scraps to seed,
And make sustainability our creed.

From Bridgetown’s bay to Castries’ shore,
Our youth demand — “Enough! No more!”
The plastics must not rule our tide,
Let ocean health be Caribbean pride.

For justice flows where oceans heal,
When every nation signs the deal.
In 2024, the UN Global Plastics Treaty debate

Proved it’s never too late to legislate.
The world now moves — the islands too,
For plastic’s end depends on you.

Five weeks strong, our voices blend,
The call for justice will not end.
Next week we close this vibrant run,
When youth engagement leads as one.
Stay tuned to Climate Conscious, friends,
Where change begins, and waste life ends.

The Christian Belief in the Supernatural Being



ABEA Publication Written by

Rev Dr Ken Sharpe – Pastor St. Johnstons Church of the Nazarene

Belief in God has been central to our religious faith and practice. God, the creator, created mankind with a sense of dependence beyond the empirical world. The Genesis of creation linked man to God's image; "And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness." (Genesis 1:26). It was Augustine who wrote: Thou madest us for Thyself, and our heart is restless, until it reposes in Thee. God seeks fellowship with mankind. This article aims to provide insight into God to inspire you to trust Him.

Human mind cannot adequately conceptualise or define God. Only the Infinite can fully comprehend the Infinite. This philosophical conclusion has New Testament support, which

reveals God, Who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, Whom no one has seen or can see. 1 Timothy 6:16 (NIV) Nonetheless, God has revealed Himself through His revelation. When Moses was sent to the children of Israel in Egypt, he requested God's explanation of himself, but was told, I Am that I Am, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel. Exodus 5:14.

As a people of faith, we believe God is a Spirit, holy in nature and attribute, infinite in wisdom, perfect in knowledge, sovereign of the universe, creative and administrative, absolute, and intuitive. He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, righteous, trustworthy, just and holy. A God of love and mercy, Maker and Preserver of all things: visible and invisible. Very importantly, the Redeemer of sinners to Himself.

Essentially, God revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Church of England define God as follows: There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body parts or passions; of infinite power, wisdom and goodness; the Maker and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. In the unity of this Godhead, there be three persons of one substance, power and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. (Article 1)

God as Father

The Fatherhood of God is most frequently spoken of in the Old Testament: Yet O Lord, thou art our Father;

we are the clay, and thou art our potter: we are all the work of thy hand. Isaiah 64:8. As Father, God guides, protects, consoles and listens to us and supplies our needs. 2 Corinthians 16-18: I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people....and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

God the Son

The birth of Christ is one of the most debated and controversial topics. This birth was miraculous—a virginal conception—not the result of a sexual relationship, yet normal. Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38 confirm this. Christ was very God and very human (see Luke 2:52).

Christ's earthly ministry spanned about three and a half years. He emptied himself and took servanthood, leaving all the splendours of heaven to reconcile man back to God.

Jesus, the Giver of Life, was crucified—a punishment reserved for murderers and similar offenders according to Roman law. Despite the mockery, taunting, abuse, and the excruciating pain Jesus bore on behalf of mankind; and while it seemed the powers of hell and death had won, on the third day He rose from the grave to reconcile us to God our Father (see Matthew 16:21; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

To be Continued



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Regional News



Firefighters save Mandeville residents from flooded homes

Residents of Gibson Close, off Ward Avenue, in Mandeville had faced flooding before, but never one severe enough to submerge their homes.

On Tuesday, as Hurricane Melissa battered the area, firefighters had to be called to rescue seven people from the roof of a house as they tried desperately to escape the rising floodwaters.

“I don’t kiss man, but I wud-da kiss them (firefighters) because when they save all of us, it was magnificent,” 76-year-old Leebert Campbell declared.

His home was among three houses and a garage that was inundated as Hurricane Melissa lashed up 30 inches of rainfall on the island on Tuesday.

The day before the storm’s arrival, Campbell, knowing his home was at risk of flooding, sought shelter at his neighbour, Rose Salkey’s house.

He told The Gleaner that he did expect her home to suffer the fate he predicted for his.

“This is a upstairs house and we neva know di water would come up there, [but] the water keep coming up to the upstairs,” he explained.

The returning resident said the ordeal left him distressed, but grateful to have been saved.

“I was really scared. When the firemen come, a neva hesitate. I jump on the lad-



der,” he said.

Salkey told The Gleaner that she and her four children never imagined that their home of seven years would be flooded like that and so did not make any plans to evacuate.

“We had our important documents packed away and stuff like that. And we got our food supplies, medical supplies were in place, and everything else. We were just waiting to see the storm and the passage of it. That’s it,” she said.

She said she never expected that hours into the storm, they’d be facing up to seven feet of water, while waiting on their roof to be rescued.

It was harrowing, but she said she had to maintain her composure for the sake of her children.

“I had to be there to support them and to encourage them on and all of that, and to tell them we have to fight. Because even when we are up to our noses in the water, we still can’t give up. So I had to send them out, make sure

the firemen get them first, and then I went last,” she said.

Salkey also praised the firefighters, who she said showed great strength and professionalism.

“They had their thing organised and I really applaud them for that,” she said.

She said her family has lost everything, including furniture, appliances, and more, and the enormity of the recovery ahead leaves her feeling overwhelmed.

“It (house) is still flooding and we can’t go through the debris, and it is still at a very dangerous height. So we have to wait; and it is very dirty at this time, too, because, as you would imagine, sewage is also a part of it. Yes, but we give God thanks for what He has done for us so far,” she said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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King Charles 'profoundly saddened' by devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa to Jamaica

Jamaica's King, Charles III, says he is profoundly saddened to see the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Melissa in the country and across the Caribbean.

In a message on Wednesday, he said he and his wife, Camilla, have been following the situation closely and that their thoughts are with all those affected by the storm.

"Above all, our most heartfelt sympathy is with the families, friends, and loved ones of those who have tragically lost their lives," said Jamaica's Head of State.

He stated that no disaster can break the enduring spirit of strength, solidarity, and steadfastness of Jamaicans, reflecting on his admiration for the island.

"Jamaica is a land for which I have had the greatest affection ever since I first visited the island while serving in the Royal Navy on the West Indies Station over fifty years ago," he said.

"I particularly want to express my sincere admiration for all of you, and especially for those who have responded so courageously when that spirit has been called upon in a desperate situation such as this. I have the greatest appreciation for the efforts of the emergency services, frontline workers, and volunteers who are working bravely and tirelessly in support of rescue and recovery efforts across the island," he said.

King Charles said the dreadful record-breaking storms bring into focus the increasingly urgent need to restore the balance and harmony of nature for the sake of all those whose lives and livelihoods may have been shattered by this heartbreaking disaster.

"Our special prayers are with you all."
(Jamaica Gleaner)



Regional News

PAHO prepares aid shipment for Jamaica



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says it has 5.5 tons of humanitarian aid supplies ready for shipment to Jamaica as soon as the country's airports re-opens following the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

The supplies are to be shipped from PAHO's Regional Strategic Stockpile in Panama.

The shipment includes an inter-agency emergency health kit, containing life-saving medicines and medical supplies, and a non-communicable diseases kit, each sufficient for 10,000 people for three months; a trauma and emergency surgery kit for 50 patients; 50 medical backpacks; a hurricane re-

sponse kit; field care tents; water storage tanks; 300 treated mosquito nets; and personal protective equipment (PPE) including surgical gowns, gloves, N95 masks, and face shields.

PAHO says it has also activated its Emergency Operations Center in Barbados to coordinate the regional response to Hurricane Melissa.

From this center, the damage to the health infrastructure in affected countries is being assessed, with the goal of supporting the restoration of essential health services and ensuring continuity of care for the most impacted communities.

PAHO says it will contin-

ue monitoring the situation in Cuba, Jamaica and the Caribbean in close collaboration with national governments, United Nations agencies, and humanitarian partners to ensure an effective response focused on the recovery of the health system and the protection

of life and health of affected populations.

It says it has delivered more than 2.6 tons of essential medical supplies to Cuban health authorities to support the response in areas affected by Hurricane Melissa. (Jamaica Gleaner)

NATURALIZATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Berisnete Tania Francisca of Alfred Peters Street, Villa, Antigua and Barbuda, is applying to the Minister of Naturalization, and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Five new suspects arrested over Louvre jewellery theft

Five more suspects have been arrested over their involvement in the Louvre heist, Paris' public prosecutor has said.

They were detained on Wednesday night in the Paris region during coordinated raids, according to Laure Beccau.

One of the suspects is thought to be part of the four-man team that carried out the heist, who were seen on CCTV.

Two of the other alleged thieves have already been arrested and have "partially recognised" their involvement in the brazen theft, while the fourth person has not yet been caught.

It is not clear what role the other newly arrested people allegedly played in the theft, but Beccau told French radio station RTL on Thursday that they "may eventually inform us about how the incident took place".

Beccau said the arrests had been made in areas in and around Paris, including the suburb of Seine-Saint-Denis.

Phones and other objects found on the suspects during the raid were allowing investigators to study encrypted messages, she added.

Those arrested can be detained for up to four days before being charged or released.

French investigators are not giving many more details away at this stage but Beccau said that DNA from one of those arrested on Wednesday night could be linked to the crime scene.

"We had him in our sights," she said of the main suspect.

She specified that the latest arrests were not related to statements made by the previously detained suspects but to "other elements of the case".

The authorities have previously said that the gang involved in the heist could be bigger than those who physically stole the jewels.



Items worth €88m (£76m; \$102m) were taken from the Louvre - the world's most-visited museum - on 19 October, when four thieves broke into the building in broad daylight. The precious jewels have not been recovered yet.

The Marie-Louise necklace and a pair of earrings were among the eight items stolen.

A tiara worn by the Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III, was taken.

The first two people who were arrested over the heist - both men in their thirties with criminal records - are thought to be the pair who used power tools to enter the museum's Galerie d'Apollon (Gallery of Apollo) and steal some of the French crown jewels.

They were taken into custody late last week. Beccau told a press conference on Wednesday that one of the men was arrested as he tried to board a one-way flight to Algeria, but that the other man had not been planning to leave France, contrary to earlier media reports.

There was no evidence at this stage to suggest the theft was an inside job, she added, confirming no accomplices worked at the museum.

On the day of the heist, the robbers arrived at 09:30, just after the museum opened to visitors, Beccau said at a

press conference on Wednesday.

The suspects arrived with a stolen vehicle-mounted mechanical lift to gain access to the Gallery of Apollo via a balcony close to the River Seine. The men used a disc cutter to crack open display cases housing the jewellery.

Beccau said the thieves were inside for four minutes and made their escape on two scooters waiting outside at 09:38, before switching to cars and heading east. Nobody had been threatened during the raid.

France's justice minister said security protocols in the Louvre - one of the world's most famous museums - "failed" in preventing the theft.

It was later revealed by the Louvre's director that the only camera monitoring the Gallery of Apollo was pointing away from a balcony the thieves climbed over to break in.

Since the incident, security measures have been tightened around France's cultural institutions.

The Louvre has transferred some of its most precious jewels to the Bank of France following the heist. They will now be stored in the Bank's most secure vault, 26m (85ft) below the ground floor of its elegant headquarters in central Paris. (BBC)

Trump hails 'amazing' meeting with China's Xi but no formal trade deal agreed



US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, have met for the first time in six years - raising hopes for a de-escalation of tensions between the world's two biggest economies.

Trump described the talks, held in South Korea, as "amazing", while Beijing said they had reached a consensus to resolve "major trade issues"

Relations have been tense since Trump began imposing tariffs on China, which Beijing responded with its own. They agreed to a truce in May, but tensions remained high.

Thursday's talks did not lead to a formal agreement

but the announcements suggest they are closer to a deal - the details of which have long been subject to behind-the-scenes negotiations.

Trade deals normally take years to negotiate, and countries around the world have been thrown into resolving differences with the current Trump administration within a matter of months.

One key win for Trump is that China has agreed to suspend export control measures it had placed on rare earths, crucial for the production of everything from smartphones to fighter jets.

A jubilant president told

reporters on Air Force One that he had also got China to start immediately buying a "tremendous amounts of soybeans and other farm products". Retaliatory tariffs on American soybeans by Beijing had effectively halted imports from the US, harming US farmers - a key voting block for Trump.

There was, however, no mention of a breakthrough on TikTok. The US has sought to take the video-sharing app's US operations away from Chinese parent company ByteDance for national security reasons. Beijing said afterwards it would continue to work to resolve the issues.

Meanwhile, the US has said it will drop part of the tariffs it has levied on Beijing over the flow of ingredients used in making fentanyl to the US. Trump has imposed severe tariffs on the US's top trade partners for their perceived failure to clamp down on the drug.

However, it seems other tariffs, or taxes on imported goods, will remain in place, meaning that goods arriving in the US from China are still being taxed at a rate of over 40% for US importers.

Beijing will also be able to speak to Jensen Huang, the head of US tech firm Nvidia - according to

Trump. Nvidia is at the heart of the two countries' fight over AI chips: China wants high-end chips but the US wants to limit China's access, citing national security.

Beijing has also extended an invitation to Trump to visit China in April - yet another sign of thawing relations.

But the meeting also showed the gulf between the two leaders' approaches.

Xi was self-contained, and said only what he had prepared. He entered the meeting knowing he had a strong hand. China had learned from Trump's first term, leveraging its chokehold on rare earths, and diversifying its trade partners so it is less reliant on the US.

Afterwards, he was far more measured in his language than Trump. The two sides would be working on delivering outcomes that will serve as a "reassuring pill" for both countries' economies, he said.

Trump was - as always - more ad-lib. But the US president was also noticeably more tense than he had been for the rest of his whirlwind trip to South East Asia - a reflection of the high stakes in Thursday's meeting.

The glamour and pageantry on show since he arrived at his first stop in Malaysia

just five days ago was also absent.

Gone were the gold-laden palaces of the sort he was welcomed to in Japan on Tuesday. Instead, a building at an airport, lying behind barbed wire and security checkpoints.

The military bands which welcomed Trump to South Korea on Wednesday were

nowhere to be seen.

Instead, the only sign something important was going on inside was the heavy police and media presence.

But despite the quieter public face, what was happening inside was arguably the most significant hour and 20 minutes of the trip.

Henry Wang, a former adviser to China's State Council, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that Trump and Xi's talks "went very well".

It may not have been a trade deal, but a "framework and structure has been laid", he added - calling it "a good start". (BBC)



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More than 1,000 historic artifacts stolen in California museum heist



Thieves stole more than 1,000 historic artifacts from a California museum earlier this month, according to the Oakland Police Department. The heist occurred just be-

fore 3:30 a.m. Oct. 15 at the Oakland Museum of California's off-site storage facility, the police department said in a statement Wednesday.

"The suspect(s) broke into the facility and stole more than 1,000 items from the Museum's collection, including Native American baskets, jewelry, laptops, and other historic artifacts," it wrote, sharing photos of some stolen items.

It is investigating the burglary with the FBI, the police department told reporters Wednesday.

"The theft that occurred represents a brazen act that robs the public of our state's cultural heritage," said Lori Fogarty, the museum's executive director and CEO. "Most of these objects have been given to the museum

by generous donors."

Authorities have not announced any arrests and have not disclosed the estimated value of the stolen artifacts.

News of the Oakland robbery comes after five new suspects have been arrested in connection with the Louvre heist in Paris, officials said. The jewels in that theft remain missing.

Officials urge anyone with information in the Oakland robbery to contact the OPD Burglary Section at (510) 238-3951 or the FBI Art Crime Team, either online or via phone call at 1-800-CALL-FBI. (NBC)



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NBA reviewing betting guardrails with sportsbooks amid gambling scandal



What guardrails were in place before the NBA became embroiled in a gambling saga?

The NBA and its partner sportsbooks reviewed which types of bets are most valuable to manipulation and were in conversation about how much bettors should be allowed to wager on those bets, according to ESPN.

Those conversations are continuing amid the scandal, the outlet added.

The NBA identified missed free throws, fouls and turnovers as the most suscepti-

ble to manipulation, per the report, and asked its partner sportsbooks not to offer those types of bets.

FanDuel and DraftKings reportedly obliged.

The ongoing discussions also involve individual prop bets — betting limits are usually lower on prop bets than other types of bets.

“Prop bets on individual player performance can raise heightened integrity concerns and warrant additional scrutiny,” an NBA spokesperson told ESPN.

Heat guard Terry Rozier is

at the center of the gambling saga.

He is alleged to have conspired with gamblers surrounding prop bets of his performance, providing them inside information about his plans to remove himself from a 2023 game while he was a member of the Hornets.

There was an influx in bets on the “under” for Rozier’s statistics, and some bookmakers took his prop bets off the board just hours before the game.

Rozier ended up playing just

over nine minutes before exiting, citing a foot injury.

“Recent events demonstrate that the regulated sports betting industry is working as intended — fostering an environment of collaboration between operators, leagues, regulators, law enforcement and integrity monitoring services to help uncover suspicious activity,” a DraftKings spokesperson told ESPN.

The scandal has rocked the NBA world and also involved Trail Blazers coach Chauncey Billups, who allegedly was a “face card” in a rigged poker scheme.

India stun Australia in record chase to reach final



India's players celebrate after winning the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup semi-final against Australia in Navi Mumbai. Photo: AP

ICC Women's World Cup semi-final, Navi Mumbai

Australia 338 (49.5 overs): Litchfield 119 (93); Charani 2-49

India 341-5 (48.3 overs): Rodrigues 127* (134), Harmanpreet 89 (88)

India won by five wickets

Scorecard

Jemimah Rodrigues hit a remarkable unbeaten century as India completed a record chase to claim a stunning five-wicket win over Australia and reach the Women's

World Cup final.

Set 339 to win after a wonderful hundred from Australia opener Phoebe Litchfield, India held their nerve in a mammoth pursuit, with Rodrigues and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur leading the way with a 167-run stand.

Harmanpreet fell for 89 with 113 still needed but Rodrigues remained, reaching her hundred from 115 balls, and she was there at the end as the highest successful chase in women's one-day international history was achieved with nine balls to spare.

Rodrigues was in tears as the India players streamed on to the field after Amanjot Kaur hit the winning runs in front of a delirious home crowd to set up a final against South Africa on Sunday.

This game in Navi Mumbai will go down as an instant classic and with the defending champions dumped out, there will be a new name on the trophy this weekend.

It could all have been so different had Australia taken their chances but a missed stumping gave Harmanpreet a life on

10, while the simplest of catches was put down to relieve Rodrigues on 82.

Australia captain and wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy was the guilty party both times with Alana King the unfortunate bowler.

But both batters were ruthless in making the most of their good fortune as they timed the chase to perfection, with Rodrigues showing intent from the off and Harmanpreet gradually building into her innings after the openers fell in the powerplay.

After Harmanpreet's dismissal, Rodrigues benefited from another dropped catch with Tahlia McGrath letting the ball slip through her fingers from what seemed a straightforward chance at mid-off.

For all that Australia can point to costly errors, it is the brilliance of Rodrigues and her all-time World Cup innings that will live long in the memory.