

# “We can deliver an excellent CHOGM,” says Coordinator Celia Morgan



*The CHOGM Task Force convened its first meeting for the year on Monday following which the members posed for a group photo*

## “We can deliver an excellent CHOGM,” says Coordinator Celia Morgan



**Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene**

The Task Force charged with planning and coordinating all activities related to Antigua and Barbuda’s hosting of the Commonwealth Heads on Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November, held its first meeting for the year on Monday at Camp Blizzard.

Recently appointed Coordinator of the planning committee, Celia Morgan told the heads of the various sub-committees that hosting CHOGM is ‘a once in a lifetime event’ for everyone involved and especially for Antigua and Barbuda.

“It is a proud moment for Antigua and Barbuda to be hosting CHOGM this year, making us the smallest nation to do so. This is a distinguished meeting of leaders from around the world who will gather here in November to chart the way forward for the Commonwealth and the member states collectively,” she remarked.

According to Morgan all of Antigua and Barbuda should see the event not as one solely for the government, but a truly national event that transcends all



**Coordinator of the planning committee, Celia Morgan**

that currently divides the society.

“We need to bring everybody together; all groups, all organisations and all of society for a national cause. This is like nothing that we have done before; it’s a mammoth task, but one that I am confident that we can do; we can deliver an excellent CHOGM; one for

which we will all be proud,” she stated.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, under whose portfolio the planning and execution of CHOGM fall, joined the coordinator in expressing similar sentiments about the capability of Antigua and Barbuda to deliver an excellent CHOGM.

“I am sure everyone present shares your sentiments, Celia, about our country’s ability to deliver an excellent meeting as we join our efforts into a national platform providing leadership to this very exciting project of hosting CHOGM in November this year. It’s the first meeting for 2026 and I am going to encourage you all to constantly be reminded that CHOGM is ‘just around’ the corner. As we bring all the functional groups together focusing on your assignments, it is important that today’s meeting sets the stage for the work ahead. Today’s meeting is about the important work ahead; what has gone on before and more importantly, what is to come,” he remarked.

Roberts-Morgan told the sub-committee chairs that their meetings will increase in frequency as the date draws near with weekly meetings expected to start in April.



## Ngaio Emanuel appointed Chief Magistrate of Antigua and Barbuda



**Chief Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel**

Antigua and Barbuda has a new Chief Magistrate – Ngaio Emanuel – whose appointment has been confirmed by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, the regional body that oversees the appointments of senior magistrates and judges within Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court system.

Chief Magistrate Emanuel was appointed senior magistrate in Antigua and Barbuda in March, 2024, and she replaces former Chief Magistrate Dexter Wason, who has since retired.

She graduated from the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill) in 2004 with an honours law degree and completed her legal training at the Hugh Wooding Law School in 2006 with her LEC.

Chief Magistrate Emanuel was called to the Bar in Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago in 2006 and she joined the Chancery Chambers in Port of Spain headed by the venerable Douglas Mendes, SC, from 2006-12.

She was appointed a magistrate in Antigua and Barbuda in March of 2013. She also serves as Chairperson of the Child Justice Board since 2017.

The Chief Magistrate earned her LLM with Merit from the University of East London in 2023.

Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, who announced late last year that he had recommended her to the JLSC to be appointed as Chief Magistrate, highlighted her leadership, and tireless commitment to her task. He also described her as the consummate professional.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

# Local News

## New EU Ambassador welcomed to Antigua and Barbuda



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (left) and European Union Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, Fiona Ramsey (Right)

The new European Union Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, Fiona Ramsey, was welcomed to Antigua and Barbuda by senior government leadership including Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene.

In welcoming the new ambassador, PM Browne noted that the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the European Union goes back decades, even centuries and presently, the EU is one of the country's major developmental partners.

"Since Independence, we have had good relations with the EU as you have helped us and other Caribbean states build capacity in a number of areas. One of the areas where we are hoping to see some re-alignment is with the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Caribbean states. I believe that the funding that is made available to the Caribbean region can be more effectively utilized to address regional issues," PM Browne remarked.

He noted that one area of focus could be sea transportation as there are issues in moving people and goods around within the Caribbean, noting that it is important to strengthen intra-regional trade. The prime minister observed that the current cost of air and sea transportation has proven to



Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene (center), Permanent Secretary Clarence Pilgrim (left) and European Union Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, Fiona Ramsey (Right)

be a hindrance to regional trade.

PM Browne suggested that future EU funds to go towards securing possibly two vessels that would move people and goods between the islands. He said this would be more beneficial than the smaller grants given to individual countries. He added that this has been a view supported by Antigua and Barbuda for some time.

Later in a similar meeting with Foreign Minister Greene, the minister noted that the meeting comes at an opportune time with fresh discussions on EU's support for Antigua and Barbuda.

Greene expressed Antigua and Barbuda's appreciation for the assistance it has received from the EU over the years and that the country is mindful of concerns that the EU has expressed in recent times. "We are hopeful that our partnership which has weathered many storms in the past and that it will be able to weather this one as well. We don't think that it is anything beyond us to repair," he stated.

He made specific reference to the European Development Funds as well as the operation of the CIP programme, which the EU has made no secret of its opposition to these programmes. "These are things that I hope we can work through," he urged.

Ambassador Ramsey acknowledged that there has been a longstanding relationship between the EU and Antigua and Barbuda which has always had things to address which is completely normal. "At the EU our approach has been about communication, information, dialogue and coming to decisions together within the organization," she reported.

She noted that there are many areas of commonality between the EU and St. John's especially the area of climate change. In the area of maritime assistance as highlighted by the prime minister, the ambassador confirmed that the EU has been giving this area some attention with further announcements possible in the future.

## Energy Minister Nicholas elected as Vice President of Latin America and the Caribbean at the 16th IRENA Assembly

Minister responsible for Energy, Melford Nicholas, has been elected as Vice President representing Latin America and the Caribbean at the just-concluded 16<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly Bureau in Abu Dhabi.

In this capacity, he met with Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director-General of IRENA, when they discussed Antigua and Barbuda's priorities and practical pathways for accelerating implementation across Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including investment mobilization and partnership delivery.

At the opening of the Assembly, Minister Nicholas delivered Antigua and Barbuda's national statement, underscoring key priorities for a resilient and affordable renewable energy transition, which include:

Reducing vulnerability to volatile fossil-fuel imports, noting that fuel and related costs account for an estimated 67% of utility earnings.

Accelerating deployment of solar and wind, supported by phased and hybrid approaches that enable a just transition and manage system risks.

Strengthening and climate-proofing the grid and energy infrastructure against hurricanes and other climate impacts.

Expanding access to concessional finance and urging international partners to better reflect the special circumstances of SIDS and vulnerable middle-income states.

Advancing risk-mitigation solutions, including insurance and reinsurance mechanisms for renewable energy facilities in SIDS.



**Minister responsible for Energy, Melford Nicholas**

Recognizing partnerships that deliver results, including UAE support for a hybrid solar plant on Barbuda, alongside support from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the CARICOM Development Fund.

Reinforcing regional cooperation through institutions such as the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) to support pooled procurement, training and financing.

Later during the Assembly, Minister Nicholas chaired a ministerial-level session, reinforcing Antigua and Barbuda's leadership role within IRENA and its commitment

to building finance-ready pipelines that deliver resilient, affordable renewable energy outcomes.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly and related meetings concluded on Monday.

Other members of the Antigua and Barbuda's delegation, include, Climate Change Ambassador Ruleta Camacho Thomas, Ambassador Theon Ali, Adviser to the Minister, Brian Challenger, and Director of Operations and Energy, Karen Burton, Ministry of Information, Communication Technologies, Public Utilities and Energy.

## The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies marks steady progress with the start of second academic semester



Left to right - Assata Roberts - Principal AFC and Dr. E. Jonah Greene - President ABCAS

The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) has completed its first academic semester and is entering its second with renewed momentum, strengthened coordination, and a clear focus on quality and access.

Speaking at the start of the new semester, Dr. E. Jonah Greene, President of ABCAS, described the institution as being “on the right trajectory,” noting steady progress over the first 90 days as previously stand-alone campuses are now being aligned under a unified vision.

Dr. Greene explained that the initial months were deliberately spent observing systems and operations across the institution. With that period now complete, ABCAS is actively bringing together policies, programmes, and people to ensure the institution is on a strong and sustainable footing.

ABCAS currently serves more than 1,200 students across five campuses, including the Dr. Alister Francis Campus, Eustace Hill Campus, and the Muriel O’Mard Campus, with the Harrison Centre operating as an affiliate governed by the ABCAS Board of Trustees. Plans are also underway for the launch of the School of Agriculture, which will begin with short courses this semester before introducing a full associate degree programme in September 2026.

Principal of the Dr. Alister Francis Campus, Assata Roberts, said the previous semester went well, with administrators focused on fine-tuning policies and procedures to improve efficiency and the overall student experience. She noted that students, lecturers, and administrative staff are fully in place, and systems continue to improve daily. The Dr. Alister Francis Campus remains the largest campus,



EHC Students

with over 450 students enrolled.

Ensuring programmes remain relevant is also a key priority. Academic leads regularly review offerings against industry and global trends, with new initiatives being explored, including collaboration with the Ministry of Health in the area of public health. ABCAS is also strengthening its quality assurance framework, with the introduction of a dedicated examinations unit.

Dr. Greene added that expanding short courses aligned with business and workforce needs remains a priority, alongside enhanced practical training. At the Muriel O’Mard Campus,

efforts are underway to revitalize the training restaurant, with long-term plans to develop a mini-hotel or Airbnb-style facility to give students full practical exposure.

With government-covered tuition scheduled to begin in September 2026 for the new academic year, both leaders expressed optimism that greater access to higher education will soon be available to individuals who previously faced financial barriers.

Dr. Greene reaffirmed that work continues toward full institutional accreditation, as ABCAS builds on a dynamic first semester and moves confidently into its second academic semester.

## Government representatives, diplomats gather to bid farewell to the outgoing Honorary Consul of the Dominican Republic

Government representatives along with members of the diplomatic corps joined leaders of the local Dominican Republic community to bid farewell to the departing Honorary Consul, Joaquin Lopez Diaz.

The event took place at an intimate reception held at the Royalton Hotel on Sunday night where the attendees included Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Karen Cabral, Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood and her team, as well as the Cuban Ambassador, Sergio Martinez, and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Colombia Maria Brito. Several leaders of the Dominican Republic diaspora in Antigua and Barbuda were also in attendance.

CIO Yearwood observed that the departing diplomat has been one of the most cooperative foreign representatives that she has had to deal with during her almost ten years as Chief Immigration Officer.

"I wish to place on record the wonderful work that the honorary consul has done during his tenure to bridge the gap between the Immigration Department and members of the Dominican Republic community in this country. It is a community that poses much challenge when trying to reach its members. This is not only because of the language barrier, but some of it has to do with cultural practices. I am pleased to stand with Honorary Consul Lopez Diaz in acknowledging that he has played a significant role in helping us to reach the DR community much easier," she explained.

In response, Lopez Diaz expressed his gratitude for the support he has received during his 3-year assignment in St. John's from the various government departments, most notably, the Department of Immigration, in performing his primary role of providing consular and other services to the DR diaspora in Antigua and Barbuda.



He also expressed his delight in working alongside the other members of the diplomatic corps who attended the event. He offered special thanks to the leaders of the DR diaspora in Antigua and Barbuda who joined his in assisting him over the past three years.

Honorary Consul Lopez Diaz leaves Antigua and Barbuda to return to San-

to Domingo on Wednesday. However, his replacement – Julio Cesar Mateo – arrives on St. John's on Tuesday to take up his assignment.

One of the first engagements of the new honorary consul is a meeting with the Chief Immigration Officer during this week.

# Local News

## EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network joins with Wise Use of Caribbean Wetlands Project to launch National Creative Young Voices for Wetlands Competition for World Wetlands Day 2026



The EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network (ESFN), in partnership with the Wise Use of Caribbean Wetlands Project, is proud to announce the launch of the Creative Young Voices for Wetlands Competition in recognition of World Wetlands Day 2026. Under the official 2026 global theme: "Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage, the competition invites students across Antigua and Barbuda to explore, illustrate, and reimagine the deep connection between wetlands and our communities.

Youth are invited to submit within their age bracket via three (3) categories: Writing, Photography and Art. Through poems, short stories, essays, drawings, digital art, and paintings, students are encouraged to reflect on how wetlands nurture our health, economy, environment, and why protecting them is important for future generations.

Submissions are open now until January 26th, 2026, giving youth an ideal opportunity to take on a meaningful creative project at the start of the new year. Parents, guardians, and teachers are encour-

### World Wetlands Day 2 February 2026



**Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage**

aged to discuss the importance of wetlands, from climate resilience to cultural identity and the shared responsibility to protect them. Winners will be announced on February 2nd, 2026, World Wetlands Day.

As part of the Ecoshores Sustainable Futures Network's (ESFN) month-long celebration of World Wetlands Day 2026, winning entries will be featured throughout the month of February across social media, exhibitions, and community events. All entries will be featured in ESFN's Endeavour Publication. The Creative Young Voices for Wetlands competition aligns with national pride as Antigua and Barbuda hosts the Codrington Lagoon, a RAMSAR-designated wetland site, under the Wetlands Convention.

Wetlands are among the world's most productive ecosystems, providing natural coastal protection from storms and erosion, critical

habitats for fish, birds, and endangered species, nursery grounds for marine life that support local fishing livelihoods, carbon storage that helps reduce the impacts of climate change, freshwater filtration that keeps communities healthier, and cultural and recreational value that enriches community life. In Antigua and Barbuda, wetlands and mangroves play a particularly essential role in safeguarding coastal communities and sustaining biodiversity.

Ecoshores Sustainable Futures Network (ESFN) and the Wise Use Of Caribbean Wetlands Project invite all youth to participate in this inspiring national initiative. Detailed submission guidelines can be found via the following link: [ecosfn.com/young-voices-for-wetlands-competition-criteria](http://ecosfn.com/young-voices-for-wetlands-competition-criteria) and participants can submit their entries via this link: <https://qrco.de/bgYRqF>

Prizes will be awarded to participants whose submissions demonstrate ESFN's core pillar of Expression, along with creativity, originality, and cultural heritage.

This World Wetlands Day, we celebrate our wetlands while nurturing creative thinking, environmental stewards, and climate resilience advocates among our young people. All winning and shortlisted submissions will be featured in ESFN's Endeavour Publication and highlighted across partner projects and platforms, giving students national visibility for their creativity and environmental leadership.

## Joint Statement by the Heads of Antigua and Barbuda's Law-Enforcement and National Security Agencies



*(Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda • Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force • Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy\* Antigua and Barbuda Immigration Department)*

**Antigua and Barbuda** reaffirms its firm commitment to safeguarding national and regional security through sustained action against drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms trafficking, and organised crime, while remaining vigilant to emerging threats related to cybercrime and irregular migration.

Law-Enforcement and National Security Agencies represented here today recognise that recent counter-drug efforts by the government of the United States of America, aimed at disrupting narcotics flows from producing countries to the south has resulted in allegations reported in sections of the print and electronic media that governments and leaders of governments within

the Caribbean were corrupted by narco-traffickers. It is suggested that Antigua and Barbuda was a primary part of the alleged Caribbean route and that its leader is involved.

Recent commentary in the public domain and on social media has suggested that Antigua and Barbuda or its politicians / officials are involved in alleged regional narcotics trafficking routes. We are not aware of any indictment, investigation, or official finding that identifies Antigua and Barbuda, its institutions, or its officials in this regard.

As the professional heads of the agencies responsible for national security and law enforcement, we state unequivocally that Antigua and Barbuda has worked vigorously and consistently to counter narco-trafficking, and that this sustained effort is reflected in independent international assessments that classify the country as low risk for such activity.

The most recent national threat analysis continues to classify Antigua and Barbuda as a low-risk jurisdiction, reflecting a strong legal and regulatory framework, effective financial oversight, a comparatively low crime rate, and meaningful international cooperation. Robust anti-money-laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist-financing (CTF) measures, supported by a stable political environment, have significantly limited opportunities for illicit finance and threats to national security.

Notwithstanding this positive assessment, drug trafficking, fraud and firearms-related crimes remain priority concerns.

The country has undergone detailed peer review under the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) process, which records high-level political commitment, structured national coordination, and the continuous strengthening of systems to combat money-laundering and related crimes.

Antigua and Barbuda is not listed among jurisdictions identified by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as having strategic deficiencies requiring enhanced monitoring.

Similarly, the Organization of American States, through the InterAmerican Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), has expressly recognised Antigua and Barbuda's operational performance.

In its evaluation, CICAD observed that "Antigua and Barbuda implements actions to identify organised criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes; maintains effective inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling those groups; and has participated in joint operations and investigations with other countries directed at dismantling organised criminal networks".

We emphasise that there has never been any credible intelligence, inves-

# Local News

tigative finding, or evidentiary material indicating political involvement in narco-trafficking in Antigua and Barbuda.

Where allegations arise, they are assessed. Where evidence meets the legal threshold, investigations are pursued and arrests are made.

The law guides our actions.

We are able to state this with confidence because Antigua and Barbuda's national security framework is structured, coordinated, and subject to oversight – both regional and international.

In that regard, the National Security Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, has given consistent, explicit, and documented direction that Antigua and Barbuda must never be used—directly or indirectly—as a corridor for narcotics trafficking or related financial crime.

Under that direction, law-enforcement and security agencies are required to share intelligence fully, pursue investigations wherever they lead, cooperate closely with international partners, and take enforcement action without regard to status, affiliation, or position.

As heads of the operational agencies, we affirm that our actions are guided by that policy direction and by the law alone.

Beyond assessments, our work is continuous and operational. It includes:

maritime surveillance and interdiction across territorial waters and approaches;

intelligence-led investigations and inter-agency coordination;

active cooperation with partners in the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and regional counterparts; and

financial investigations aimed at dismantling criminal networks by following illicit proceeds and enforcing asset-seizure and prosecution mechanisms.

Antigua and Barbuda will continue to work against any attempt to make us a transit corridor for narcotics trafficking.

We will not provide shelter for those who profit from it.

We remain vigilant at sea, resolute in investigation, firm in enforcement, and committed to cooperation with trusted partners—guided always by the law and the national interest.

Citizens and residents are urged to remain alert and to report suspicious activities to law enforcement authorities. Antigua and Barbuda continues to work closely with regional, and international partners to address evolving threats.

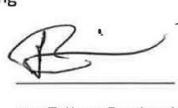
The public is assured that law enforcement, border control agencies, and the Defence Force remain fully engaged and vigilant to protect the nation, preserve the integrity of its financial and border systems, and contribute responsibly to regional and international security.

Thank you. We are now prepared to take questions.

Signed by the following



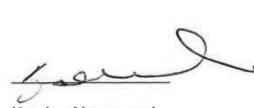
Edward Croft  
Director ONDCP



Brg Telbert Benjamin  
CDS – ABDF



Everton Jeffers  
COP – RPFAB



Katrina Yearwood  
CIO – Antigua Barbuda



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## PGA Fellowship Programme

### Introduction

**The President of the General Assembly Fellowship Programme aims to promote youth engagement in multilateralism and support the next generation of diplomats.**

The Fellowship will bring to New York a small group of young diplomats and civil servants from developing countries, particularly from Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), while also ensuring geographical representation and gender balance.

### The Fellowship Programme

The Fellows will be fully embedded in the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) and assigned to the different teams in the Office. Through their work in the OPGA, the Fellows will gain an in-depth understanding of the workings of the General Assembly and the United Nations system.

The Fellowship will offer training sessions for the Fellows on the United Nations, its organs and subsidiary bodies. The training will also cover topics such as sustainable development, climate change, peace and conflict resolution and human rights as well as skills development in negotiation, drafting and public diplomacy.

### Selection Process

Member States and Observer States from developing countries, particularly LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, are invited to nominate, through their Permanent Mission in New York, one candidate for the Fellowship. Applications will be accepted only if they are submitted through Permanent Missions in New York.

Nominees for the Fellowship must meet the following criteria:

- Between the ages of 25 and 30.
- Hold a university degree.
- Demonstrate fluency in verbal and written English.
- Have a maximum of three years of experience working in national government.

Gender balance and regional representation will be considered in the selection of the Fellows.

To nominate a candidate, please send the following materials to Mr. Majid Ibraheem, Adviser at the OPGA at [majid.ibraheem@un.org](mailto:majid.ibraheem@un.org) with a copy to [opga@un.org](mailto:opga@un.org), mentioning “Application for PGA Fellowship” in the Subject:

1. Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission nominating the candidate for the Fellowship.
2. Candidate’s cover letter expressing intent to join the Fellowship (up to 300 words); and
3. Candidate’s CV
4. Copy of candidate’s passport bio page

### Indicative Timeline

Last day for submitting applications:	30 January 2026
Successful candidates to be notified:	6 February 2026
Acceptance to be conveyed:	13 February 2026
Fellowship commencement:	9 March 2026
Fellowship concludes	9 July 2026

### Fellows will receive:

- A roundtrip economy airfare ticket from their home country to New York City
- A laptop for use during the Fellowship
- A monthly stipend
- Health Insurance

Fellows must apply for and obtain a **G-4 visa** prior to traveling to New York.

Further information on the UN’s policies on fellowships can be found at  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/fellowships/>

# CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

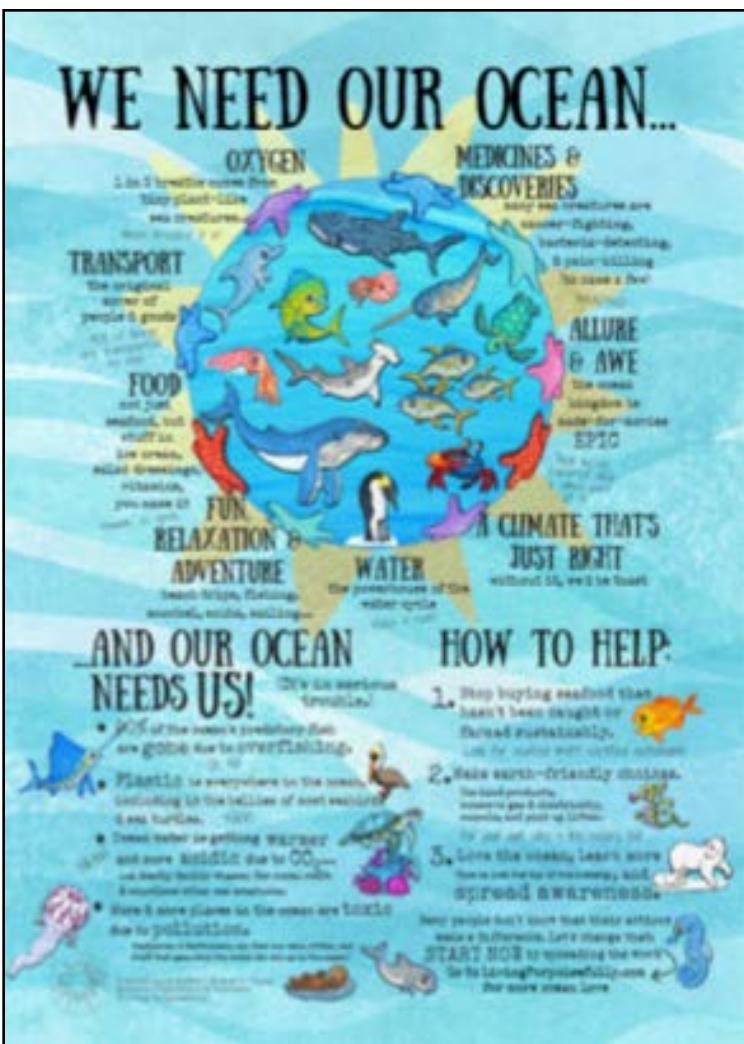
RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS


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## New Year, New Blessing, Same Planet

New year, new blessing, the clock strikes again,  
 A fresh page opens—so where do we begin?  
 We toast to tomorrow, we whisper “amen,”  
 But the planet is asking, will this be the end?  
 Same sun in the morning, same stars up at night,  
 Same oceans still fighting to breathe and to fight.  
 Same soil beneath us, same air in our chest,  
 Same Earth doing more while we’re giving her less.

New calendars hung, new goals neatly framed,  
 But the storms still arrive, fierce, furious, untamed.  
 The seasons are shifting, the signs are all clear,  
 The planet keeps speaking—are we ready to hear?  
 New year, new promise, we say “this is the one,”  
 Yet the damage continues, the harm isn’t done.  
 We talk about someday, about later, about then,  
 But now is the moment—now is when.  
 Same planet, no backup, no Planet B near,  
 No reset, no replay, no second frontier.  
 You can’t swipe left on oceans or scroll past the sky,  
 You can’t mute the forests as they quietly die.  
 We walk on her surface with borrowed grace,  
 Every footprint a story, each scar a trace.  
 She’s given us rivers, she’s given us rain,  
 Yet we answer her kindness with neglect and with pain.  
 New year, new blessing, but blessings demand  
 More than good wishes and a wave of the hand.  
 They ask us for effort, for courage, for care,  
 For actions that show that we’re truly aware.  
 Awareness is knowing, but knowing won’t do,  
 If knowledge stays idle and change is delayed too.  
 The need for action isn’t gentle or small,  
 It’s urgent, it’s pressing, it’s sounding the call.  
 The need for change isn’t loud just for show,  
 It’s whispered in mangroves and corals below.  
 It’s written in droughts and in floods that arrive,  
 In the question of how future children will thrive.  
 Same planet, same people, divided by views,  
 By comfort and habits we’re afraid to lose.



# Feature

But progress feels costly until we can see  
 The price of inaction is catastrophe.  
 New year, new choices—consume or conserve,  
 Protect what we love or take more than we deserve.  
 Will we choose convenience or choose what is right?  
 Will we act in the dark or step into the light?  
 To love the planet is more than a phrase,  
 More than a post or a trend for a day.  
 It's how we recycle, reduce, and repair,  
 It's how much we notice and how much we care.  
 Love is refusing to look the other way,  
 When landfills keep growing and coastlines decay.  
 Love is small actions repeated with pride,  
 Turning the personal into a collective stride.  
 It's choosing to question, to learn, to unlearn,  
 To sit with discomfort, to listen, to turn.  
 To understand justice and climate entwined,  
 That the most vulnerable are often left behind.  
 New year, new blessing, same planet in need,  
 Of leaders with courage and people who lead.  
 Not waiting for titles, permission, or fame,  
 But acting because silence is part of the blame.  
 The need to act now isn't fear dressed as doom,  
 It's hope with a deadline, a closing-in room.

It's love with a backbone, resolve with a plan,  
 Belief in the power held by woman and man.  
 Same planet, same heartbeat, beneath sea and land,  
 Pulsing through ecosystems perfectly planned.  
 She's resilient, yes—but resilience has bounds,  
 Even the strongest can break when they're ground.  
 New year, new blessing—let blessing be real,  
 Not empty tradition, but something we feel.  
 Let it show in our choices, our budgets, our votes,  
 In the words that we speak and the systems we quote.  
 Let change be the rhythm, not fear or delay,  
 Let action be normal, not “someday.”  
 Let loving this planet be how we exist,  
 Not a side conversation we frequently miss.  
 Because time isn't waiting, and neither can we,  
 This moment is ours—our responsibility.  
 Same planet, one chance, one shared destiny,  
 One Earth, one future—yours, mine, and we.  
 So new year, new blessing—let this one be bold,  
 Where action outweighs what we've merely been told.  
 Where we love this planet not later, not then,  
 But now, with intention, again and again.



**MRS. JELLETTE RALPH  
(JELLY BEANS)**

 **PDV Caribe**  
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

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# Regional News

## Migrant woman dragged and assaulted in viral video

Migrant activists have condemned a video circulating on social media showing a Spanish-speaking woman being abused by a group and accused of committing arson.

In the one-minute-and-14-second video, for which both the date and exact location are unknown, a man with a purple hat is seen pulling a slim, middle-aged woman in a red crop-top and tights by her neck and left arm from a dwelling onto a smoky street. Another man is overheard saying, "Look the culprit who burned down the house. Watch she. She trying to run."

The woman attempted to escape, and the man slammed her onto the street. Another man in a grey T-shirt then assisted in restraining her. "Murder,

murder," the woman shouted.

Another woman said: "Tie she up."

The man then flung her on the ground again and restrained her while other people hovered about.

Men are heard commenting "doh beat she" and "doh damage she".

Founder of La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre Andreina Brown commented on the incident yesterday.

"Based solely on what is shown in the circulated video, we express absolute rejection of any form of violence, humiliating, degrading, or disproportionate treatment towards migrants, in this case towards a woman who appears to be Spanish-speaking," she said via WhatsApp.

She added: "Regardless of the person's migratory status of any alleged wrongdoing, every individual is entitled to due process, the presumption of innocence and respect. It should be done in accordance with fundamental human rights, principles and the legal framework of Trinidad and Tobago."

She also said: "The use of force without safeguards, public exposure or degrading treatment does not constitute justice and don't contribute to public safety and order. Instead it fuels fear and stigmatisation and mistrust in institutions. If violence has occurred, it must be addressed by competent authorities through established procedures, without abuse or dehumanisation. (Trinidad Express)

## Jamaicans among criminal illegal Caribbean immigrants nabbed by ICE

Jamaican nationals were among criminal migrants deemed the "worst of the worst" who were detained in recent days by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

The department says the criminals include those convicted of sexual assault of a child, assault, and human trafficking.

DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said pedophiles, violent thugs, and human traffickers have been removed from American communities.

McLaughlin said the arrests included Jamaicans Duane Alando Spence, who was convicted for aggravated battery-great bodily harm in Miami, and Marvin McGregor, who was con-

victed of third-degree murder, firearms possession, and recklessly endangering another person in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

She said others arrested included Brett Archer, a Barbadian national convicted of assault in Brooklyn, New York, Randolph Agusto Diaz-Cabrera, a Dominican Republic national convicted of second-degree sexual conduct against a child in Kings County, New York; Desiderio Marte Vargas, another Dominican Republic national, convicted of attempted murder and unlawful possession of a weapon in Paterson, New Jersey; Cubans Duniesky Eugenio Delgado-Gazo, convicted for aggravated assault in Pensacola, Florida and Yusney Figueroa Arguelles, convicted of robbery with a firearm in Orlando, Florida.



McLaughlin said under President Donald Trump and Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is targeting and removing "the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens terrorising American families".

McLaughlin said 70 per

cent of ICE arrests are of criminal illegal immigrants with charges or convictions in the United States.

"In 2026, with a 120 per cent increase in manpower, ICE is unleashed to arrest even more criminal illegal aliens and get them out of our country," she said. (CMC)

# Regional News

## US diplomat calls for appointment of Guyana's Opposition leader

United States (US) Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot, says the Caribbean Community (Caricom) country needs to have in place an Opposition leader based on the results of the September 1 general and regional elections that resulted in the ruling People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) being returned to office.

The newly formed We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) headed by Azruddin Mohamed, emerged as the second party in the new Parliament with the most seats, overtaking the position that had been occupied by the coalition A Partnership for National Unity (APNU).

Over the weekend, President Irfaan Ali described as "absolutely ridiculous" suggestions in some quarters that his Government has not been calling sittings of the National Assembly to avoid the election of Mohamed as the main Opposition leader.

"Absolutely ridiculous! The opposition can elect whoever they want as Opposition leader so it's absolutely ridiculous. That's their business. We have no business in the Opposition electing whoever they want as leader of the Opposition," he told reporters.

Following the elections, the National Assembly was called only once — November 3, 2025, and the Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir, has so far not called the constitutionally required meeting of the 29 Opposition parliamentarians to elect, most likely, Mohamed as Opposition leader.

"I think it's incredibly important that you have a functioning Parliament in any democracy and in order



to have that, you do need a leader of the Opposition. It just makes things work properly," Theriot told reporters following an event at Banks DIH on Sunday.

Mohamed and his billionaire businessman father, Nazar "Shell" Mohamed, are currently contesting their extradition to the United States. On October 30, 2025, Washington formally requested the extradition of the 76-year-old businessman and his 38-year-old son on multiple charges, including wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, and customs-related offences, all linked to an alleged US\$50 million gold export and tax evasion scheme.

Their extradition committal hearing is slated to resume on February 5, 2026.

Theriot was quick to reiterate that the US would be unable to engage Mohamed politically on certain matters.

"Like I've said before, it complicates matters. It's not the easiest thing in the world to deal with but what's most important is that your democracy functions and I think in order for Parliament to do that and to represent the will of the people, who elected this person or who chose this person to have a significant number of seats or chose his party, that they need to move forward with the election.

"It doesn't impact on us legally but if he is involved in certain aspects of government that we have to deal with; if it involves anything financial or contractual then that might be a slight problem for us and we would just have to ask that someone else work on that issue so for us we can work around it," she said.

The US diplomat also noted that the European Union, Canada and the United Kingdom have all called for the election of the Opposition leader. (CMC)

# Regional News

## Cuban President Diaz-Canel responds to recent statements by Trump, affirms right to defend homeland



Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel denounced “the immoral statements made by the US government against Cuba and reaffirmed readiness to defend the country.”

Referring indirectly to remarks made by U.S. President Donald Trump, a press release from the Cuban Consular Office quoted the Cuban leader as highlighting on social media that “those who turn everything into a business, even human lives, have no moral authority to point the finger at Cuba in any way, absolutely in any way.”

The recent capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro by U.S. forces has thwarted arrangements between the countries and resulted in Cuba losing its biggest oil supplier.

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump took to social media stating: “THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA – ZERO! I strongly suggest they make a deal, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.”

In his post, Díaz-Canel reportedly argued that the current outrage expressed by those criticizing Cuba stems from their frustration with the nation’s sovereign choice of its political system.

According to the statement, the Cuban president addressed critics who blame the Revolution for the severe economic hardships, telling them they should feel ashamed and choose si-

lence instead.

Claiming that such accusations are rooted in the harsh, oppressive measures imposed by the U.S. for over sixty years, which continue to threaten to intensify, Díaz-Canel reaffirmed that Cuba remains a free, independent, and sovereign nation that rejects external impositions, as per the release.

He explicitly stated: “Cuba does not attack; it has been attacked by the US for 66 years, and it does not threaten; it prepares, ready to defend the Homeland to the last drop of blood. #CubaIsCourage.”

On Sunday, state media extensively covered the Cuban leader’s remarks, set against a backdrop of ongoing U.S. action Venezuela and what he identifies as escalating threats from the White House directed at various nations. (Dominica Ness Online)



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## Thousands of nurses go on strike at several major New York City hospitals



Thousands of nurses in three hospital systems in New York City went on strike Monday after negotiations through the weekend failed to yield breakthroughs in their contract disputes.

The strike was taking place at The Mount Sinai Hospital and two of its satellite campuses, with picket lines forming. The other affected hospitals are New York-Presbyterian and Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

About 15,000 nurses are involved in the strike, according to New York State Nurses Association.

The strike, which comes during a severe flu season, could potentially force the hospitals to transfer patients, cancel procedures or divert ambulances.

It could also put a strain on city hospitals not involved in the contract dispute, as patients avoid the medical centres hit by the strike.

The hospitals involved have been hiring temporary nurses to try and fill the labour gap during the walk-

out, and said in a statement during negotiations that they would "do whatever is necessary to minimize disruptions."

Montefiore posted a message assuring patients that appointments would be kept.

"NYSNA's leaders continue to double down on their \$3.6 billion in reckless demands, including nearly 40% wage increases, and their troubling proposals like demanding that a nurse not be terminated if found to be compromised by drugs or alcohol while on the job," Montefiore spokesperson Joe Solmonese said Monday after the strike had started.

"We remain resolute in our commitment to providing safe and seamless care, regardless of how long the strike may last."

New York-Presbyterian accused the union of staging a strike to "create disruption," but said in a statement that it has taken steps to ensure patients receive the care they need.

"We're ready to keep negotiating a

fair and reasonable contract that reflects our respect for our nurses and the critical role they play, and also recognizes the challenging realities of today's healthcare environment," the statement said.

The work stoppage is occurring at multiple hospitals simultaneously, but each medical centre is negotiating with the union independently. Several other hospitals across the city and in its suburbs reached deals in recent days to avert a possible strike.

The nurses' demands vary by hospital, but the major issues include staffing levels and workplace safety. The union says hospitals have given nurses unmanageable workloads.

Nurses also want better security measures in the workplace, citing incidents like a man with a sharp object barricaded himself in a Brooklyn hospital room and was then killed by police.

The union also wants limitations on hospitals' use of artificial intelligence.

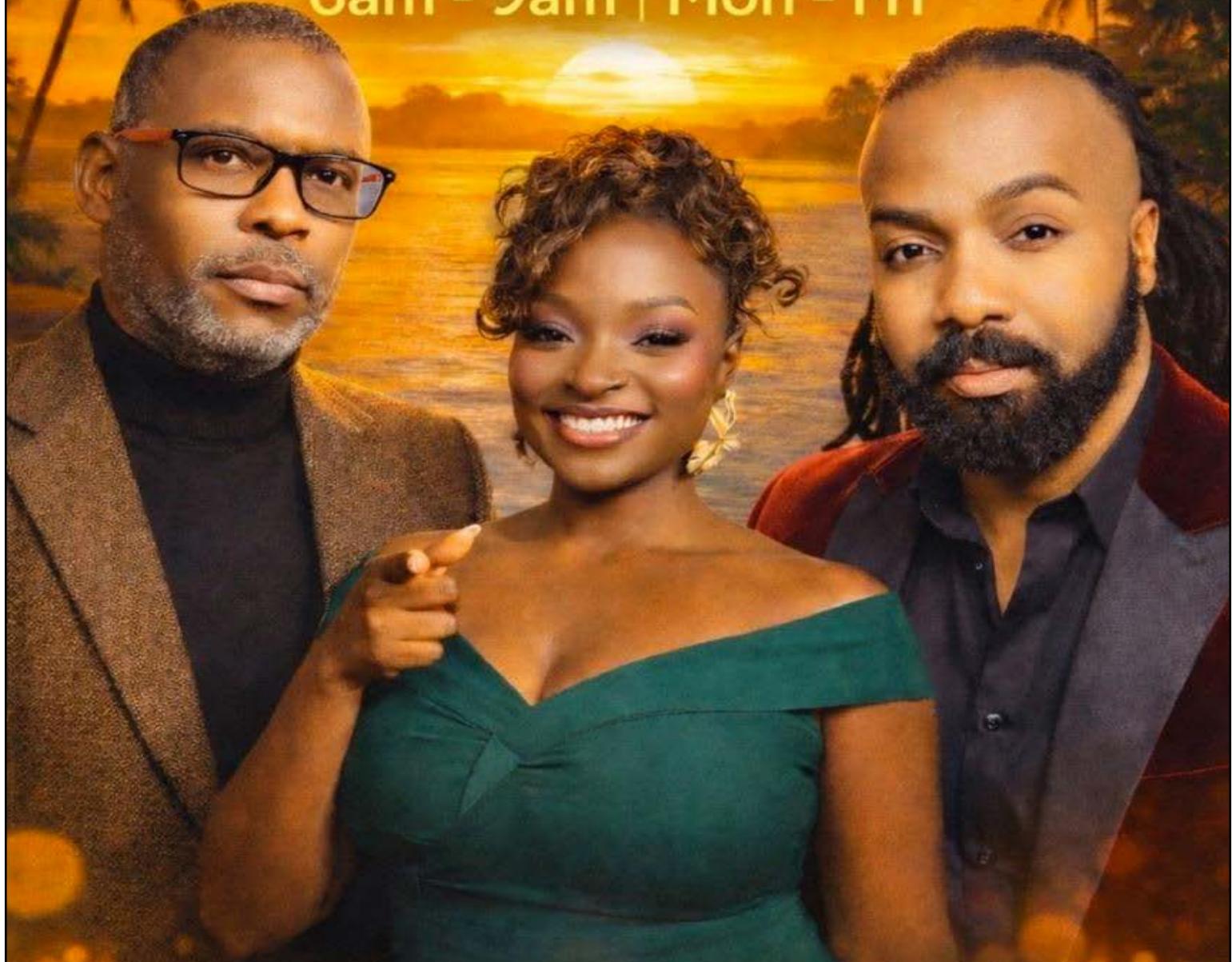
The non-profit hospitals involved in the negotiations say they've been working to improve staffing levels, but say the union's demands overall are too costly.

Nurses voted to authorize the strike last month.

Both New York Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Zohran Mamdani had expressed concern about the possibility of the strike. As the strike deadline neared, Mamdani urged both sides to keep negotiating and reach a deal that "honours our nurses and keeps our hospitals open." (AP)

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## US intercepts fifth sanctioned tanker as it exerts control over Venezuelan oil distribution

US forces boarded another oil tanker in the Caribbean Sea on Friday, the US military said, as the Trump administration targets sanctioned tankers travelling to and from Venezuela as part of a broader effort to take control of the South American country's oil.

The predawn raid was carried out by Marines and Navy sailors launched from the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, part of the extensive force the US has built up in the Caribbean in recent months, according to US Southern Command, which declared "there is no safe haven for criminals" as it announced the seizure of the tanker called the Olina. The Coast Guard then took control of the vessel, officials said.

Southern Command and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem both posted unclassified footage on social media Friday morning of a US helicopter landing on the vessel and US personnel conducting a search of the deck and tossing what appeared to be an explosive device in front of a door leading to inside the ship.

In her post, Noem said the ship was "another 'ghost fleet' tanker ship suspected of carrying embargoed oil" and it had departed Venezuela "attempting to evade US forces".

The Olina is the fifth tanker that has been seized by US forces as part of the effort by US President Donald Trump's administration to control the production, refining and global distribution of Venezuela's oil products, and the third since the US ouster of Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro in a surprise nighttime raid.

In a post on his social media network later in the day, Trump said the seizure was conducted "in coordination with the Interim Authorities of Venezuela" but offered no elaboration.

The White House did not immediately respond to requests for more details.

Venezuela's government acknowledged in a statement that it was working with U.S. authorities to return



the tanker, "which set sail without payment or authorization from the Venezuelan authorities". to the South American nation.

"Thanks to this first successful joint operation, the ship is sailing back to Venezuelan waters for its protection and relevant actions," according to the statement.

Samir Madani, co-founder of Tanker-Trackers.com, said his organization used satellite imagery and surface-level photos to document that at least 16 tankers left the Venezuelan coast in contravention of the quarantine US forces have set up to block sanctioned ships from conducting trade. The Olina was among that flotilla.

US government records show that the Olina was sanctioned for moving Russian oil under its prior name, Minerva M, and flagged in Panama.

While records show the Olina is now flying the flag of Timor-Leste, it is listed in the international shipping registry as having a false flag, meaning the registration it is claiming is not valid. In July, the owner and manager of the ship on its registration was changed to a company in Hong Kong.

According to ship tracking databases, the Olina last transmitted its location in November in the Caribbean, north of the Venezuelan coast. Since then, however, the ship has been running dark with its location beacon turned

off.

While Noem and the military framed the seizure as part of an effort to enforce the law, other officials in the Trump administration have made clear they see it as a way to generate cash as they seek to rebuild Venezuela's battered oil industry and restore its economy.

In an early morning social media post, Trump said the US and Venezuela "are working well together, especially as it pertains to rebuilding, in a much bigger, better, and more modern form, their oil and gas infrastructure".

The administration said it expects to sell 30 million to 50 million barrels of sanctioned Venezuelan oil, with the proceeds to go to both the US and Venezuelan people. But the president expects the arrangement to continue indefinitely. He met Friday with executives from oil companies to discuss his goal of investing US\$100 billion in Venezuela to repair and upgrade its oil production and distribution.

Vice President JD Vance told Fox News this week that the US can "control" Venezuela's "purse strings" by dictating where its oil can be sold.

Madani estimated that the Olina is loaded with 707,000 barrels of oil, which at the current market price of about US\$60 a barrel would be worth more than US\$42 million. (AP)

## Meta urges Australia to change teen social media ban



Tech giant Meta urged Australia on Monday to rethink its world-first social media ban for under-16s, while reporting that it has blocked more than 544,000 accounts under the new law.

Australia has required big platforms including Meta, TikTok and YouTube to stop underage users from holding accounts since the legislation came into force on December 10 last year.

Companies face fines of Aus\$49.5 million (US\$33 million) if they fail to take “reasonable steps” to comply.

Billionaire Mark Zuckerberg’s Meta said it had removed 331,000 underage accounts from Instagram, 173,000 from Facebook, and 40,000 from Threads in the week to December 11.

The company said it was committed to complying with the law.

“That said, we call on the Australian government to engage with industry

constructively to find a better way forward, such as incentivising all of industry to raise the standard in providing safe, privacy-preserving, age appropriate experiences online, instead of blanket bans,” it said in statement.

Meta renewed an earlier call for app stores to be required to verify people’s ages and get parental approval before under-16s can download an app.

This was the only way to avoid a “whack-a-mole” race to stop teens migrating to new apps to avoid the ban, the company said.

The government said it was holding social media companies to account for the harm they cause young Australians.

“Platforms like Meta collect a huge amount of data on their users for commercial purposes. They can and must use that information to comply with Australian law and ensure people un-

der 16 are not on their platforms,” a government spokesperson said.

Meta said parents and experts were worried about the ban isolating young people from online communities, and driving some to less regulated apps and darker corners of the internet.

Initial impacts of the legislation “suggest it is not meeting its objectives of increasing the safety and well-being of young Australians”, it said.

While raising concern over the lack of an industry standard for determining age online, Meta said its compliance with the Australian law would be a “multilayered process”.

Since the ban, the California-based firm said it had helped found the OpenAge Initiative, a non-profit group that has launched age-verification tools called AgeKeys to be used with participating platforms. (AFP)

# Sports News

## Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze open landmark year for West Indies women



**Guyana women are the defending T20 Blaze champions**

Cricket West Indies (CWI) will commence a major year of women's cricket as the CG United Women's Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze return to St Vincent and the Grenadines from January 10 to February 1, 2026.

The limited-over tournaments once again bring together sides from Barbados, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, T20 Blaze defending champions Guyana, Super 50 defending champions Trinidad and Tobago and hosts the Windward Islands, to provide a strong competitive platform at the start of a busy cricket calendar for the West Indies Women.

The T20 Blaze will be contested in a round-robin format followed by finals and like last year's tournament, all matches will be played at the Arnos Vale Ground.

Fans will be treated to triple-headers daily, with matches starting at 9:30 am, 2:30 pm, and 7 pm, with the final match of the day being played under lights.

Following the conclusion of the T20 Blaze, the Super 50 tournament will commence at three grounds, Sion Hill, Park Hill and Cumberland, and games will bowl off at 9:30 am each day.

Each team will play three games, after which the top-ranked team will be declared the winner. All tournament matches will be streamed live on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel.

Guyana claimed their maiden regional women's title in last year's Blaze after an undefeated run in the competition, which culminated in a Super Over victory over Jamaica in the final.

Earlier in 2025, Trinidad and Tobago secured the Super 50 crown with a seven-wicket win over Barbados in the final.

Cricket West Indies Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe highlighted the importance of the tournaments saying, "These tournaments are a critical starting point for what promises to be an extremely demanding and important year for women's cricket in the

Caribbean.

"The CG United Women's Super50 Cup and the T20 Blaze provide the competitive intensity and performance benchmarks that are essential as we build towards a busy international schedule, featuring major bilateral series and the ICC T20 World Cup.

"Strong regional competition remains the foundation of our high-performance pathway, and we expect these tournaments to once again highlight and produce players ready to perform at the international level."

Following the tournaments, the West Indies women will host Sri Lanka for a white-ball series in late February, before doing battle with Australia in an all-format series the following month.

This summer will also be a major one for the women, featuring a tri-nation series against Ireland and Pakistan, along with the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup, which the regional side has been diligently preparing for.

# Sports News

## Windies World Cup squad to be named after Afghanistan series

Cricket West Indies (CWI) will not name their West Indies squad for next month's ICC T20 World Cup until the end of their upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghanistan in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

This was revealed by CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, who said the team will be announced following the final T20I, which is scheduled to be played on January 22.

The first match is set to be played on January 19, with the second match two days later.

The majority of countries have already named their provisional squads for the February 7 to March 8 tournament, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

However, speaking on WESN TV



**Miles Bascombe**

on Saturday, Bascombe disclosed that

the World Cup squad would be named "within 48 hours" after the final match against Afghanistan.

"We have taken the decision not to name our squad until after the Afghanistan series.

"We have the good fortune of having Afghanistan and South Africa before we head into the warmup matches for the World Cup, so the idea is that we use Afghanistan to sort of finalise our squad," Bascombe explained.

"We didn't like the idea of naming a provisional squad and then having to announce changes to that squad. We submitted a provisional squad as we had to, but we did inform the ICC that following that series against Afghanistan that is when we will formalise our squad."


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# Sports News

## CAF to investigate post-match violence at Africa Cup of Nations

TANGIERS, Morocco (Reuters) -- Violent confrontations at the conclusion of two of the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals at the weekend are to be investigated with possible sanctions to be imposed, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) said.

Opposing players jostled with each other after Morocco beat Cameroon in Rabat on Friday and when Nigeria overcame Algeria in Agadir on Saturday.

Video on social media showed the referee being pursued down the tunnel by Algerian players after their 2-0 defeat, and altercations among journalists from the two countries in the mixed zone, an area where reporters can interview players after the match.

"CAF has collected recent match reports and video evidence indicating potentially unacceptable behaviour from some players and officials and has opened an investigation," a statement said.

"CAF has referred the matters to the Disciplinary Board for investigation and has called for appropriate action to be taken if the identified persons were to be found guilty of any wrongdoing.

"CAF strongly condemns any inappropriate behaviour which occurs during matches, especially those targeting the refereeing team or match organisers. Appropriate actions will be sought against anyone whose be-



**Algeria's goalkeeper Luca Zidane, center, and teammates clash with Nigeria's players following the Africa Cup of Nations quarterfinal soccer match between Algeria and Nigeria in Marrakech, Morocco, Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026. (AP)**

haviour is not consistent with professional conduct at CAF events," it added.

Algerian fans clashed with security staff after their loss to Nigeria. Algeria's federation on Monday confirmed it had filed a complaint with CAF over the performance of referee Issa Sy from Senegal in a one-sided match in which Algeria were roundly beaten by Nigeria.

"The Algerian Football Federation cannot ignore the refereeing performance observed during the last match,

which raised numerous questions and caused considerable confusion," it said in a statement.

"Certain decisions have damaged the credibility of African refereeing and do nothing to enhance the value of continental football on the international stage."

Such complaints, however, are common in African football, notably from losing teams as federations seek to temper the dissatisfaction and disappointment of their fans and blame defeat on refereeing errors.

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## FIFA deepens World Cup ties to betting industry



Argentina's Lionel Messi lifts the trophy after winning the World Cup final soccer match between Argentina and France at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, on Dec. 18, 2022. (AP)

ZURICH (AP) — FIFA deepened its commercial ties to the betting industry Monday in a four-year deal that will let some gambling operators live-stream World Cup games this year.

The deal with data provider Stats Perform, with brands including soccer statistics specialist Opta, runs through 2029 for most FIFA competitions “to distribute official betting data and

livestreams” to account holders.

“It also grants exclusive betting rights to thousands of matches per season across FIFA Member Association competitions powered by FIFA+,” the soccer body said, without stating the value of the deal.

The FIFA+ website, which shows games from some FIFA competitions

and lower-ranked leagues plus highlights from much of the World Cup archive, has now teamed with Saudi Arabia-backed streaming network DAZN.

FIFA’s commercial partnerships with the gambling industry are despite its code of ethics formally prohibiting players, officials, and agents from taking part in “either directly or indirectly, betting, gambling, lotteries or similar events or transactions related to football matches or competitions.

FIFA’s previous World Cup tie-in with gambling was a regional sponsor deal in Europe for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Chicago-based Stats Perform said it will distribute FIFA betting data “to licensed sports betting operators for modeling, trading, settlement and in-play front-end use.”

Its Opta subsidiary will supply gambling industry clients with “official player statistics, insights, live scores, and match trackers.”

The 2026 FIFA Men’s World Cup will start on June 11 in Mexico City and will see 48 teams play 104 games across the United States, Canada, and Mexico through to July 19.



# Sports

TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

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## Grenades ends United's unbeaten run to go top of Premier League



*A starting XI of the Jennings Grenades football team*

The Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades ended the unbeaten run of defending back-to-back champions All Saints United to move to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday night.

The Jennings Grenades maintained their unbeaten run and notched up their ninth win in 11 matches by snatching a one-nil victory against All Saints United in a top-of-the-table clash in the last game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, Stanley Providence broke the deadlock by

scoring the only goal of the match in the 54th minute to snatch victory for the Grenades.

All Saints United finished the match with 10 men after Leroy Grahams received a red card and was expelled in the sixth minute of added time.

After drawing their two previous matches, All Saints United dropped points for the third consecutive time, slumping to their first defeat in 11 matches to slip from first to second in the standings with 26 points.

Both teams entered the match level on 26 points, but the result allows the Grenades to move three

points clear of All Saints United at the top of the Premier Division with 29 points.

Garden Stars and the Pigotts Bullets recorded wins in Sunday's other two Premier League matches. Garden Stars secured their fourth win in 10 matches by pulling off a 2-1 victory against struggling Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United in Sunday's opening game.

Ngozie Harvey scored a late winner with a strike in the first minute of added time to snatch victory for the Garden Stars. His teammate Tyrai Francis gave Garden Stars a one-nil lead with a 27th-min-

ute conversion.

Rajiel Parchment converted a penalty kick in the 41st minute to secure an equalizer for Jennings United as both teams reached halftime level at 1-1.

The result lifted Garden Stars to 15 points, while Jennings United remains in the cellar with three points after crashing to their 10th defeat in 11 matches.

The Pigotts Bullets notched up their sixth win in 10 matches by overcoming a one-nil deficit to prevail 3-1 against Green City FC in Sunday's second game.

All the goals came in the first half, in which Kieron Richards scored in the third minute to give Green City the lead. Akeem Isaac snatched the equalizer for the Pigotts Bullets with a 12th-minute conversion.

Goals by Jurell Skepple in the 24th minute and Sujae Mcbean in the 33rd minute clinched victory for the Pigotts Bullets.

The result allows the Pigotts Bullets to move on to 18 points, while Green City FC remains on 11 points after crashing to their sixth defeat in 11 games.