

# St. John's City Consultation Takes Place Tonight

*Story on page 2*



Aerial view of the city of St. John's

# Local News

## St. John's City Consultation Takes Place Tonight

Discussions centered around the re-development and beautification of the city of St. John's will be the focus of a major consultation that the government will convene tonight (Thursday January 29) at the John E. St. Luce Conference Centre.

A media advertisement for the event lists top government officials who are expected to be present to make presentations. These include; Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, Tourism Minister, Charles Max Fernandez, Works Minister, Maria Browne and Social and Urban Development Minister, Rawdon Turner.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne noted that much of the focus will be on the beautification of St. John's with a need for collaboration between government and the citizenry to make these efforts a success. He added that several government agencies such as the National Solid Waste Management Authority, have been doing their part but it also needs the input from people in the country.

"Our people must learn to keep the environment clean; there is too much indiscriminate dumping of garbage; too many derelict homes and those are issues that we are currently addressing," the prime minister noted.

In January, the Ministry of Urban Development started the process of demolishing derelict buildings in St. John's, whose owners have not responded to government's directives to refurbish these buildings themselves; enter into an arrangement with the government or have the buildings demolished.

PM Browne said the government is investing heavily in its people and the people now have to reciprocate by being better stewards of the environment. He also wants members of the public to join the efforts to 'keep our country clean and beautiful'.

Just last Saturday, Tourism Minister



Fernandez, revealed that the Cabinet has agreed to the re-development of St. John's and the government hopes to partner with Global Ports Holding to design the masterplan for the planned

improvements. Most of the buildings in the city are privately owned and many have been left in a state of disrepair by owners some of whom no longer live here.



### MAINTENANCE UPDATE CRABBS REVERSE OSMOSIS PLANT

Wednesday 28 January, 2026

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority Water Business Unit wishes to advise the general public that unforeseen operational issues arose at the Crabbs Reverse Osmosis Facility following planned maintenance activities carried out on Tuesday, 27 January 2026. As a result, water distribution from this facility has been delayed today.

The Crabbs facility has been in operation for over three decades. While our teams continue to operate and maintain the plant with care, the age of the facility means that systems can be more sensitive during and after maintenance works. Our technical teams are actively addressing the issue and working to restore distribution as safely and efficiently as possible.

Where feasible, the Water Business Unit will supply affected areas from alternative sources to help minimise the impact on customers.

We deeply apologise for the inconvenience being experienced and thank customers for their patience and understanding.

Looking ahead, APUA recognises that the existing facility has reached its commercial lifespan. Later this year, construction is expected to commence on a new 3.2 million imperial gallon reverse osmosis plant at Crabbs. This investment forms part of our ongoing efforts to improve our water network and strengthen long-term system resilience.

For assistance or enquiries, customers may contact our Support Centre at 211.

#### AREA(S) TO BE AFFECTED

Weirs, North Sound, Gunthorpes, Fitches Creek, Pigotts, Paynters Housing Project, Paynters East, Lightfoot East and West, Herbersts main road, Sea View Farm, Potters East, Bellview Estate, Bayview, Herbersts, Renfrew, Ferris Farm

Parham, Vernons Development, Diamond Estate, Pares, Mount Joy, Jonas Road, All Saints, Mock Pond, Freemans Village, Nothern section of Roman Hill.

Old Parham Road from Paint Plus, Cassada Gardens #1, 2, 3, Skerritts Pasture, Sutherlands, Carnival Gardens, Government Office Complex, Sir Sydney Walling Hwy. from Potters junction to St. Johns Fire Station, Friars Hill Road east side from Village Walk to the Government House, Upper Gambles, Campsite, Clare Hall, Wireless Road



# CITY OF ST. JOHN'S CONSULTATION

**Your City. Your Voice**



**Hon. Gaston Browne**  
Prime Minister of  
Antigua & Barbuda



**Hon. Rawdon Turner**  
Minister of Social &  
Urban Transformation



**Hon. Steadroy Benjamin**  
Attorney General  
Minister of Legal Affairs, Public  
Safety, Immigration and Labour



**Hon. Maria Browne**  
Minister of Housing &  
Works



**Hon. Charles Max Fernandez**  
Minister of Tourism, Civil  
Aviation, Transportation &  
Investment

**INVITING ALL PROPERTY & BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE CITY OF ST. JOHN'S**

**TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

- ✓ City Aesthetics
- ✓ Garbage Collection & Disposal
- ✓ Curbs & Drains
- ✓ Road Infrastructure
- ✓ Littering Issues
- ✓ Demolition of Derelict Buildings

**JOHN E. ST. LUCE  
CONFERENCE CENTER**  
Sir Sydney Walling Highway

**29 JANUARY  
05:00 PM**

**268 785-5757  
RSVP**

# Local News

## Antigua and Barbuda to Host Executive Committee Meeting of the Council of Legal Education



**Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin**

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will host the bi-annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Legal Education (CLE) on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st January 2026. The meeting will take place at the St. James Club and Villas.

The Council of Legal Education, established more than 50 years ago, is responsible for ensuring the training of competent legal professionals across the region while upholding the highest ethical and professional standards. The Executive Committee serves as the Council's principal administrative and strategic body, overseeing Caribbean legal education, managing the affairs of regional law schools, and guiding long-term planning initiatives.

During the two-day high-level meeting, members of the Executive Committee, along with Attorneys General from across the region, will engage in strategic discussions aimed at strengthening the operations of the Council's law schools and advancing the overall mission of legal education in the Caribbean. The Committee will also address key administrative, financial, and regulatory matters on behalf of the Council.

Minister of Legal Affairs and Attorney General, the Hon. Sir Stead-

roy "Cutie" Benjamin, expressed his pleasure that Antigua and Barbuda have been selected to host such a prestigious gathering. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to promoting excellence and integrity within the legal profession.

Antigua and Barbuda continue to produce high-performing law students who excel at regional law schools. Many graduates have gone on to become outstanding legal prac-

titioners, serving within the Ministry of Legal Affairs as well as in private practice locally and throughout the region.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda looks forward to the successful hosting of the Executive Committee meeting and to further strengthening its contribution to the development of legal education in the Caribbean.

**Wild Wild  
WINGS!!**

**-15 Hot Wings Bucket with Wedges  
OR  
-25 Hot Wings ONLY Bucket**

**\$29.99**


 A large KFC bucket filled with fried chicken wings and wedges. The bucket is white with red stripes and features the KFC logo. The text on the bucket reads "KEEP ANTIQUE" and "AllMart". Social media icons for Facebook and Instagram with the handle "@KFCANU" are also present.

## Bendals School to resume classes on Monday

Regular classes are to resume Monday at the Bendals Primary where a fire of unknown origin on Sunday resulted in significant damage to the school's administration block.

Director of Education, Clare Browne, has reported that the expectation was that the classes would have resumed on Wednesday after two days of preparations of the structure. However, recognizing that the extent of the damage necessitated more time to clean up and be ready for the students, a decision was made to restart the classroom sessions until Monday.

Director Browne further reported that the admin' block houses the principal's office, the secretary's office and the staff room. It is also the area where the records of the school are kept.

He noted that the ceiling of the building has had to be removed in an effort to make the space safe to operate. All the school's electronic systems also



perished in the fire. These are the computers, printer and copier among others.

The Board of Education has sent teams to the school to power-wash the structure and the teachers are going through the arduous task of combing through what records are salvageable.

Of concern is the bathroom that is utilized by teachers. Efforts are being made to have it back into service by Monday. "The teachers are doing as much as possible to save the school's

records. This entails drying, sorting and separating those that are salvageable and those that are not. This is both a painstaking and arduous task that they have undertaken," Director Browne stated.

According to the Director, it is anticipated that the task of getting rid of the damaged items and other tasks associated with the clean-up will be completed by Friday to allow for classes to resume on Monday.



### PRESS RELEASE

#### SJCCU Concludes Board and Committees Swearing-In Ceremony

St. John's, Antigua – January 28, 2026

St. John's Co-operative Credit Union (SJCCU) successfully concluded its Board and Committees Swearing-In Ceremony on the evening of January 15, 2026, formally appointing members to its Board of Directors, Credit Committee, and Supervisory & Compliance Committee.

The ceremony followed SJCCU's Annual General Meeting and marked an important milestone in reinforcing the Credit Union's commitment to strong governance, accountability, and effective oversight. The newly appointed volunteers pledged to uphold the values, responsibilities, and principles that guide the co-operative movement.

The Board and Committees have been appointed as follows:

#### SJCCU Board of Directors

Chevaughn Smith – President  
Donald Thomas – Vice President  
Techesa Charles – Treasurer  
Nekesha Smith-Isaac – Assistant Treasurer  
Jamila Gregory – Secretary  
Taisha Wade-York – Assistant Secretary  
Shari Brown – Director

#### Supervisory & Compliance Committee

Garry Benjamin – Chairman  
Makeba Dowdy – Secretary  
Andre Jeremiah – Member  
Kavisha Thomas – Member  
Rainer Santos Mercado – Member

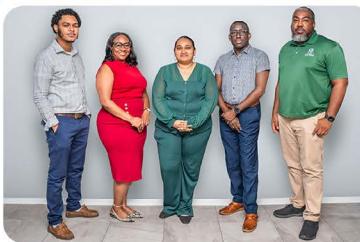
#### Credit Committee

Gija George – Chairman  
Carol M. Daley – Secretary  
Nitesha Merchant – Member  
Rhunette Ralph – Member  
Shermaine James-Rodgers – Member



Board of Directors

Left to Right: Donald Thomas, Nekesha Smith-Isaac, Taisha Wade-York, Jamila Gregory, Techesa Charles and Chevaughn Smith



Supervisory & Compliance Committee

Left to right: Rainer Robert Santos Mercado, Makeba Dowdy, Kavisha Thomas, Garry Benjamin and Andre Jeremiah



Credit Committee

Left to Right: Rhunette Ralph, Carol Daley, Gija George, Nitesha Merchant and Shermaine Rodgers

The evening highlighted the rich history of SJCCU and the enduring importance of volunteer service within the co-operative movement. Members reflected on the responsibility entrusted to them and reaffirmed their dedication to leading with integrity, transparency, and a commitment to members' best interests.

SJCCU extends sincere congratulations to all newly appointed Board and Committee members and looks forward to their leadership as the Credit Union continues to strengthen governance and serve its membership.

## NODS reviews disaster preparedness at the nation's schools

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is on a drive to review the disaster preparedness of public schools in Antigua and Barbuda.

Public Relations Officer, Midcie Francis, said under this initiative, her department carried out two preparedness exercises in two schools during week. On Tuesday, a team from NODS assessed the preparedness of the Buckley's Primary School to effectively respond should an earthquake affect the island during school hours.

In particular, the NODS team wanted to ensure just how effective the campaign that focused on – drop – cover – hold – had been in communicating to the school's population the key essentials to avoid injuries during a strong earthquake.

The exercise involved the school conducting an earthquake drill with the NODS team observing. The school, which has a population of more than 100 students, participated in the exercise as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen disaster readiness within the education sector.

Buckley's Primary School is among the institutions that benefited from the Model Safe School Programme Enhancement Works, a regional initiative



facilitated by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

The programme was implemented with funding provided by the Government of Norway in 2024 and is aimed at improving school infrastructure and preparedness to better withstand natural hazards.

Meanwhile, a team from NODS carried out another disaster preparedness exercise at the Clare Hall Secondary

School. This time the focus was on ascertaining the school's readiness to respond to a fire by safely evacuating staff and student from the compound.

During the exercise, the staff and student body assembled on the playing field adjacent to the school where they are expected to go should a fire disaster really strike.

According to Francis, schools in the public sector conduct quarterly drills in disaster preparedness with the focus on earthquakes, fires and tsunamis.



**POINT ON DE STREETZ**  
 HOSTED BY  
 VERNON A. SPRINGER

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 POINTS BROADCASTING NETWORK

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**2PM - 3PM**  
 CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991  
**f POINT FM99.1**

# Tevin Willock Sentenced to Seven Months' Imprisonment



Tevin Willock of Green Bay has been sentenced to a total of seven (7) months at His Majesty's Prison after pleading guilty to the offences of Escaping Lawful Custody and Malicious Damage.

Willock appeared before Magistrate Mighty at the Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, January 27, where he entered guilty pleas to both charges.

He was sentenced to six (6) months' imprisonment for Escaping Lawful Custody and one (1) month for Malicious Damage.

The sentences are to be served consecutively.

The court heard that Willock escaped from the confines of the St. John's Police Station and remained at large.

Subsequently, the police issued a wanted bulletin and launched targeted operations to locate him.

Following an operation con-

ducted in the Gray's Farm area, Willock was apprehended and taken into police custody.

The Police Administration extends sincere gratitude to members of the public for their

continued cooperation and assistance, which remain vital to the Force's crime-fighting efforts and the maintenance of public safety.



**Medical Benefits Scheme Prevention Unit  
Private/Primary Government School  
Obesity Awareness Competition**

## What's in my Healthy 3D Lunchbox?

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 | MBS Courtyard, Nevis Street



### GUIDELINES:

1. Participants are required to be creative in making the lunchbox.
2. Foods from the Caribbean six food groups must be used to create the 3D model.
3. Your full name, the school you represent, and age must be written at the bottom of the box.
4. Your 3D healthy lunchbox must be submitted to the Prevention Unit on or before Friday 20th February 2026.



### JUDGING CRITERIA:

- \*Creativity/Originality
- \*Appeal
- \*Color combination
- \*Nutrition Content:
  1. Inclusion of healthy options from all food groups
  2. No sugar sweetened beverages
  3. No processed meats
  4. Use of healthy snack options (low in salt, sugar, fats)



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# The Revival of U.S intervention



**By Andrecia Lewis**

On January 3, 2026, the United States carried out Operation Absolute Resolve, a mission that resulted in the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and the deaths of an estimated 75 to 80 individuals. This event did not occur in isolation. Rather, it represents a broader shift in U.S. foreign policy, signaling the return of American supremacy and the expansion of its sphere of influence.

In many ways, the United States is revisiting policies rooted in the 19th and 20th centuries, rebranded and adapted for the realities of the 21st century. The Monroe Doctrine has effectively become the “Donroe Doctrine,” while Theodore Roosevelt’s Big Stick diplomacy has been reimagined as the “Trump Corollary.” Though the names have changed, the underlying logic remains familiar: the assertion of American authority in the Western Hemisphere.

The Donroe Doctrine asserts that the United States will no longer tolerate foreign adversaries such as:

Russia, China, and Iran. This principle was cited as justification for the raid on Caracas and is now being invoked in discussions of possible future interventions in regions such as Greenland, Colombia, Cuba, and even Iran. Taken together, these signals suggest a renewed embrace of unilateral interventionism, in which the United States is willing to use military force to remove leaders or influence territories it perceives as threats to “American prominence” in the region.

This doctrine has clear historical roots. The original Monroe Doctrine, articulated in 1823, sought to prevent European monarchies from interfering in the Americas, while promising U.S. non-intervention in European conflicts. In practice, however, it repeatedly justified American military involvement. In the 1860s, the United States stationed nearly 50,000 troops near the Mexican border to pressure France into withdrawing from Mexico. Later, during the Venezuelan crisis of 1895, the U.S. intervened diplomatically to halt British attempts to expand the borders of British Guiana into Venezuelan territory.

A modernized version of this doctrine similarly opens the door to intervention, echoing the logic of the 19th century while operating on a global scale.

Where the Donroe Doctrine focuses on keeping rival powers out, the Trump Corollary goes further. Its emphasis is not merely exclusion, but direct American involvement. Under this framework, the United States claims an “international police power,” granting itself the authority to intervene in neighboring states to prevent wrongdoing or eliminate perceived threats to

American stability. This logic has been cited not only in Venezuela but also in discussions surrounding U.S. interest in “buying” Greenland, viewed as strategically vital to American security.

Operation Absolute Resolve itself was justified through this lens. The United States accused Nicolás Maduro of drug trafficking and of possessing weapons allegedly used against American interests. This mirrors earlier justifications for intervention under the Roosevelt Corollary, which led to U.S. involvement in the Dominican Republic after its bankruptcy and in Haiti following the assassination of its president in 1915. The latter resulted in a U.S. occupation that lasted nineteen years, aimed at restoring order and protecting American business interests.

Taken together, these developments suggest a decisive shift toward an era in which the United States once again views itself as the primary authority in the Western Hemisphere. Under the banner of “America First,” the focus has moved away from spreading democratic ideals and toward securing trade routes, strategic territories, and compliant alliances.

In the 21st century, this marks a significant departure from the post-World War II values long championed by Western powers. Whether this renewed assertion of dominance brings stability or fuels further conflict remains uncertain. What is clear is that the United States is signaling a return to an older, unapologetic vision of supremacy. It is one with profound implications for the region and the world.

# Feature

## NO ONE IS COMING TO SAVE US: THE CARIBBEAN'S RECKONING



**By Professor C. Justin Robinson  
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,  
The UWI Five Islands Campus**

The last twelve months have been an education. Not in what we hoped, but in what we should have known. We watched the Trump administration assert “America First” with a bluntness that left no room for ambiguity. We watched Canada and Europe accommodate, recalibrate, defer until Greenland was threatened, until a NATO ally was in the crosshairs. Then, suddenly, sovereignty mattered, strategic autonomy became urgent. Decades of comfortable assumptions dissolved in weeks and I have had to revisit my world view. The lesson for the Caribbean could not be clearer; no one is coming to save us. Not Washington, which sees us as backyard or afterthought. Not London, which long ago moved on. Not Ottawa, which has its own recalibrations underway. Not Brussels, which discovered its own vulnerability and has no bandwidth for ours. The rules-based international order we were told to trust has revealed itself as a convenience for the powerful, suspended the moment it becomes inconvenient. We are on our own. The question is whether we will finally act like it.

The closing migration valve is only the most visible symptom of this deeper exposure. For three generations, a critical plank of the Caribbean’s un-

spoken economic policy was to export our most ambitious people and import their remittances. Every August, the airports tell the story, young graduates with boarding passes to Toronto, Miami, London. Parents holding it together until the car park. WhatsApp groups that become primary relationships, punctuated by visits for Christmas, carnival, weddings, and funerals. Migration absorbed talent our economies could not employ. It eased political pressure our governments could not withstand and funded consumption our productive sectors could not support. We built economies our people endure, not economies they choose.

Now even that escape hatch is closing. Migration policies in the US, UK, and Canada have shifted structurally, not cyclically. But migration was only one dependency among many. We depended on favourable trade arrangements that have eroded. On tourism markets that pandemic and recession can shut overnight. On remittances vulnerable to the economic health of host countries. On an international system we assumed would constrain the powerful and protect the weak. Every one of these dependencies has been exposed. We are not facing a single crisis; we are facing the compound failure of a development model built on external cushions that no longer exist.

We know what works. We have known for decades from the examples of Asian economies. Invest in education before you can afford it, protect infant industries while forcing them to export, build state capacity through practice and diversify relentlessly. And yet we still graduate students into unemployment. Still import food we could grow and energy we could generate. Still watch each island replicate the same failing sectors while regional integration remains a conference topic rather than lived reality. The question is not what works. The question is why we refuse to do it.

The honest answer is uncomfortable. The status quo has beneficiaries. Import dependence enriches the merchants who control distribution. Fragmentation protects politicians whose power depends on national rather than regional constituencies. Scarce productive employment keeps labour cheap for tourism and brain drain relieves governments of demands they cannot meet. We have not failed to develop by accident. We have developed exactly the economies that existing power structures required and too many of us are complicit. External cushions made this sustainable, their disappearance makes it untenable.

What would a Caribbean built for greater opportunity and self-reliance actually look like? Picture the software developer working from Antigua for clients in São Paulo and New York compensated at global rates, spending locally, raising her children where she was raised. Picture the climate engineer whose expertise, honed in the hurricane belt, is contracted by governments from Fiji to the Philippines. Picture the agricultural scientist whose drought-resistant crops feed the region. Picture the creative professional whose music and film reach global audiences from a studio in Kingston.

And picture this, a CARICOM that negotiates as a bloc with a bit more leverage. A regional disaster response that mobilises before external aid arrives because we built the capacity ourselves. A Caribbean that speaks with one voice in international forums, not fifteen voices easily divided and dismissed. These are not fantasies; they are choices we have failed to make. Five shifts can begin to make them real.

Make climate adaptation an export industry. Every challenge we face, hurricane resilience, coastal protection, water scarcity, reef restoration, is a challenge the world will face. We can be the laboratory that develops

# Feature

solutions and the salesroom that markets them.

Build digital infrastructure as if our future depends on it because it does. High-speed internet is not an amenity. It is the foundation of every service industry that can pay global wages. Treat it as a public utility and then align education with the sectors it enables.

Keep our energy dollars in the region. We send five to fifteen percent of GDP abroad annually to buy fossil fuels. Renewable energy keeps that money circulating domestically but only if we require local participation in installation, maintenance, and eventually manufacturing. Energy policy is industrial policy.

Extend OECS-level integration across CARICOM. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States proves what is possible: a common currency, a single supreme court, genuine labour mobility, coordinated foreign policy. Why does deeper integration work among eight small islands but stall among fifteen territories? Because smaller players had no choice but to pool sovereignty. Now none of us has

a choice. Fifty years of talk is enough.

Forge a common foreign policy. In a fragmenting world, small states survive through collective weight. Fifteen separate foreign ministries pursuing fifteen separate agendas is a recipe for irrelevance. A unified Caribbean voice on climate, on trade, on the terms of great power engagement is not idealism. It is survival.

The last year taught Europe that strategic autonomy is not optional. It is teaching Canada the same lesson. The Caribbean should not need more instruction. Development is not a technical problem awaiting the right policy paper. It is a political struggle over who captures the gains from economic activity. Pretending otherwise is why we have so many excellent reports and so little transformation. So here is the call, not to abstractions, but to people.

To our governments: Convene not for communiqués but for commitments. What cannot be measured will not happen. What has no deadline is a wish.

To our private sector: Invest in production, not merely intermediation.

Train workers. Pay wages that compete with Toronto. Your children will inherit what you build or fail to build.

To our citizens: Demand more. Every election, every budget, every policy debate ask whether this builds an economy your children will choose or one they will flee. Political will does not descend from above instead it rises from populations that refuse to accept drift.

We built economies our people endure. Now we must build economies they choose. No one is coming to negotiate for us. No one is coming to protect our interests in a fragmenting world. No one is coming to build the economies our children deserve. No one is coming. That is not a tragedy. It is a liberation from the illusion that someone else would do this for us, that the international system would protect us, that we could defer hard choices indefinitely. The only question now is whether we will act like we finally understand.

**Hosts: Dr. Christopher RasKimba & Luther Lee  
GUESS: MIN SIR MOLWIN JOSEPH  
TOPIC: The Nurses from Ghana**

**POINTE FM 99.1  
THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM**

# CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

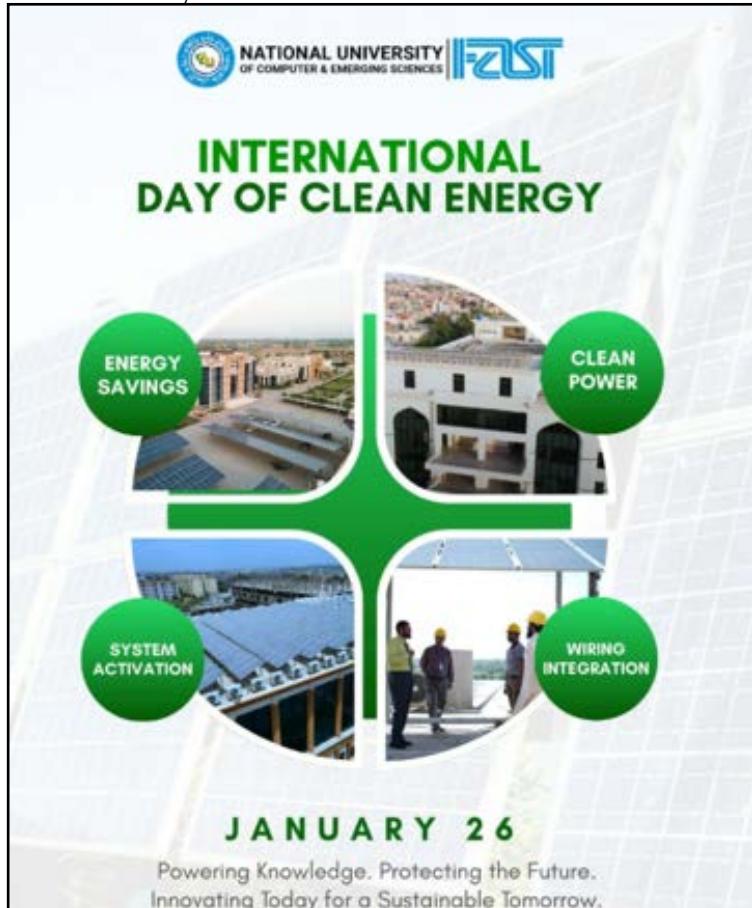

**Good Humans**  
268 Inc

## January 26, 2026 — International Day of Clean Energy

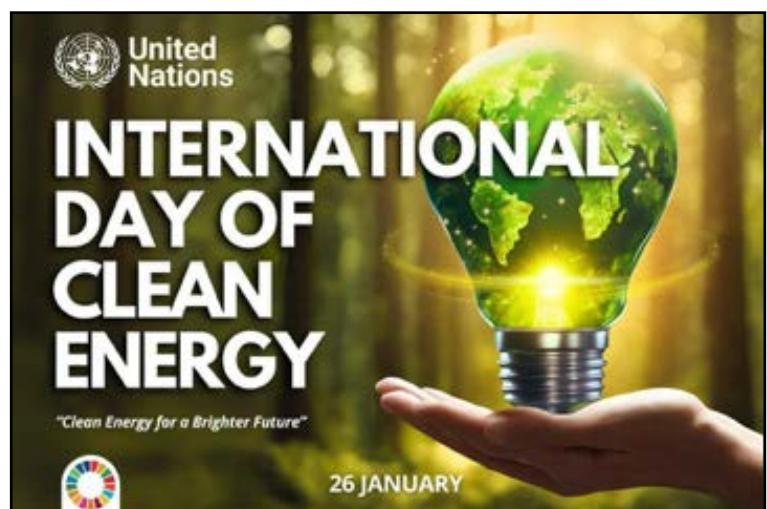
On January twenty-sixth, the world is called to see,  
That power shapes our future—who we are, who  
we'll be.

*International Day of Clean Energy marks the way,  
A reminder that tomorrow is shaped by what we  
choose today.*

It is dignity protected, day after day.  
Yet ask yourself this, and ask it slow:  
Who pays the price when the power says “no”?  
When blackouts hit in rising heat,  
Whose bodies suffer first, whose systems retreat?  
Clean energy is climate action with a face,  
It is equity moving at an urgent pace.  
When storms grow stronger, when heat won’t relent,  
Dirty systems expose who was never meant  
To survive a future built uneven and steep,  
Where the costs are borne by those already deep  
In vulnerability—yet rich in insight,  
With solutions born from living the fight.  
The UN reminds us, and rightly so,  
That climate change will not wait for us to grow  
More comfortable, slower, safe in delay—  
The time for transition is now, not someday.  
Clean energy means less smoke in the air,  
Less burden on lungs already worn thin with care.  
It means power that lasts when disaster strikes,  
Resilient systems, not fragile spikes.  
But clean energy is not just solar panels gleam,  
It’s who sits at the table shaping the dream.

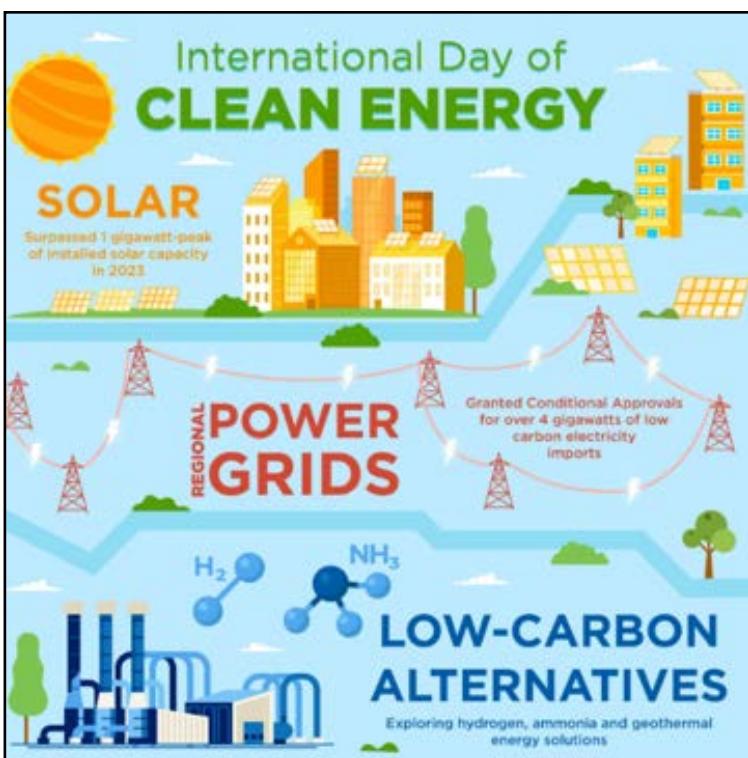


The United Nations says it plain and strong:  
Clean energy is where justice belongs.  
Affordable, reliable, sustainable too—  
Not a luxury, but a human right overdue.  
Because energy is not just lights and wire,  
It is water pumps, cooling fans, medical fire.  
It is schools that can open, clinics that stay,



It's whose homes get upgraded, whose bills go down,  
Whose jobs are created, whose skills are crowned.

# Feature



Because a transition that leaves people behind  
Is not just unjust—it's poorly designed.

A green future built on exclusion and haste  
Is progress that fails, resources laid waste.  
So climate conscious means asking aloud:  
Who benefits here, and who's still locked out?  
Who controls the switch, who writes the plan,  
Who defines what's "efficient" for woman or man?  
The UN says energy is central to life,  
To ending poverty, reducing strife.  
So let clean energy be bold and fair,  
Rooted in justice, inclusion, and care.

Let it power classrooms and recycling plants,  
Community hubs and adaptive grants.  
Let it fuel circular economies strong,  
Where waste becomes value, and work lasts long.  
Because clean energy is not just climate-smart,  
It is human-centered, ethical at heart.  
It is hope made practical, systems made right,  
A future that works—both day and night.  
On this January twenty-sixth, hear the plea:  
Clean energy is about who we choose to see.  
Not just megawatts, targets, or charts,  
But people, and justice, and beating hearts.

**PLATINUM FM**  
 We Entertain You 97.9

## DAILY PROGRAMMING




**EARLY VIBRATIONS** 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.  
 WITH GREMSTA

**THE RUSH HOUR SHOW** 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.  
 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS  
 WITH ROGER LAKE

**TOUCHLINE** 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.  
 WITH EPILOUS

**BAD COMPANY** 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS  
 LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

**REGGAE INSPIRATION** 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY  
 WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

**JAH WADADLI** 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS  
 WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

# The **MORNING POINTE Show**

Coming January 2026  
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Williams

Brianna Anthony  
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Dr. E





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- Antigua and Barbuda National Youth Ambassador Programme
- CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme
- Antigua and Barbuda National Youth Parliament
- Student of a University or Tertiary Institution
- Head Boy, Head Girl, or Prefect

### Skills

- Strong On Camera Presence
- Appreciation of production principles: lights, sound, framing, etc.
- Content Creation Tools:
  - Smartphone or HD Camera
  - Wireless Mic
  - Video Editing & Lighting

### HOW TO APPLY

Email: [mediaabchogm2026@gmail.com](mailto:mediaabchogm2026@gmail.com)

Subject: **CHOGM Correspondents**

**DEADLINE: Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



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# Regional News

## Melissa power restoration continues in earnest; 33,000 customers still in the dark, JPS CEO tells PAAC

Representatives of the Jamaica Public Service (JPS) today appeared before Parliament's Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC), where they sought to assure that the power company is working earnestly to restore electricity to customers still in the dark since Hurricane Melissa.

JPS President and CEO Hugh Grant told the committee that some 33,000 customers remain without electricity.

"As of this morning, we are actually at 95 per cent of our customers who have power. That means that 33,000 of our nearly 700,000 customers remain without power," Grant said.

He described the restoration efforts as evidence of strong planning, dedication, and partnership between JPS, the Government, and other stakeholders.

More than 99 per cent of electricity has been restored in eastern and central parishes, the CEO explained.

Hanover, he said, has seen 97 per cent restoration, Trelawny 98 per cent, and St James 92 per cent.

Westmoreland and St Elizabeth were extensively damaged, Grant said, noting that the damage was not only to the electrical infrastructure but also to homes and businesses that are not in a condition to receive power.

He pointed out that the JPS electrical grid was designed to withstand a Category 3 storm, unlike Hurricane Melissa's Category 5 gusts.

"In Westmoreland, we are more than 60 per cent restored, and in St Elizabeth, we are more than 70 per cent restored in terms of customers at this stage," he explained, adding that the restoration has reached a phase where significantly more work is required to reconnect a smaller number of customers.

Meanwhile, Blaine Jarrett, senior director of engineering services at JPS, responding to questions regarding the age of transmission towers, some of which were downed in the hurricane,

said: "They normally have a lifespan of about 70 years, and for those that were damaged, they were about 50 years old," adding that they are routinely refurbished.

He explained that JPS employed a variety of storm-preparedness measures, including an enhanced inter-agency partnership framework with standardised regional boundaries and joint utility briefings, as well as the introduction of a new 24/7, fully staffed incident command structure.

JPS indicated that following Hurricane Melissa, some 85,000 occurrences of damage were recorded, including approximately 40,000 downed or damaged poles and about 1,400 miles of damaged lines.

Meanwhile, Pia Baker, senior vice president of customer service at JPS, sought to reassure customers.

Baker said JPS is working with stakeholders to ensure customers are in a position to safely receive electricity.

"As we carry out this restoration, we

do not forget those customers who may have been waiting a little longer, and we want to ensure that resources to support them in the independent restoration of their households are targeted and expedited.

"The real risk to our restoration is ensuring that it is sustainable from a community partnership and social perspective. Customer readiness is also a limiting factor for some customers receiving electricity," she said.

"We have seen the pictures and have visited the communities, and we, along with the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), are conducting independent surveys to assess the situation. So far, we are seeing a large percentage of customers in some of the hardest-hit parishes missing pot heads and having other infrastructure issues—roofs gone and houses flooded—which will require rewiring and certification. These things are not cheap," she continued. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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## T&T families of men slain during strikes on Venezuelan boat file unprecedented lawsuit against US gov't

Two Trinidadian families have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government following the deaths of their loved ones during military strikes in Venezuela.

Chad Joseph, 26, and Rishi Samaroo, 41, both of Las Cuevas, Trinidad, were en route to Trinidad from Venezuela when they were killed in a strike, along with four other people.

The claims, filed today in Massachusetts, are brought by Lenore Burnley, Chad's mother, and Sally-car Korasingh, Samaroo's sister.

An article published in *The Hill*, stated that the families argue that the attack on October 14 is part of an "unprecedented and manifestly unlawful" series of lethal operations by the United States, targeting small boats in the Caribbean.

They claim that since September 2, there have been 36 attacks on vessels in international waters, resulting in approximately 125 fatalities.

In their 23-page complaint, the families allege that the U.S. government carried out these actions unilaterally, without seeking approval from Congress.

They accuse officials, including President Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, of "boasting" about the killings by sharing videos of the strikes online.

According to the article, the lawsuit states, "These premeditated and intentional killings lack any plausible legal justification," and characterizes the actions as "murders, ordered by individuals at the highest levels of government and obeyed by military officers in the chain of command."

The Trump administration defend-



ed the strikes against Venezuela by citing the flow of illegal drugs into the United States and dismissing the necessity of congressional approval for such military actions.

The plaintiffs explained that Joseph, one of the victims, had traveled to Venezuela to fish and work on a farm, while Samaroo was employed on an agricultural farm in Venezuela, caring for goats and producing cheese.

The families, represented by ACLU, Seton Hall University, and the Center for Constitutional Rights, are pursuing their claims under two federal laws: the Death on the High Seas Act, which permits relatives to sue for wrongful deaths occurring at sea, and the Alien Tort Statute, which allows foreign nationals to initiate lawsuits in U.S. federal courts for violations of human rights.

The *Guardian* reports that Jonathan Hafetz of Seton Hall University explained that the lawsuit is the first of

its kind because this type of bombing campaign has never occurred before in US history.

"This is uncharted water. Never before in the country's history has the government asserted this type power," he remarked in an interview. "This is a clear example of unlawful killing by the United States. The US is assuming the prerogative to kill victims in international waters."

Meanwhile, Baher Azmy, the legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, which is representing the families, described the strikes as "lawless killings in cold blood." He added, "Killings for sport and killings for theater, which is why we need a court of law to proclaim what is true and constrain what is lawless."

Reportedly, the White House has declined comment, citing the ongoing legal proceedings. (Dominica News Online)

# Regional News

## Woman in Trinidad charged for allegedly using bad cheques to buy Carnival fete tickets

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) Tuesday said that a woman has been granted TT\$10,000 bail after she allegedly issued two bad cheques to purchase tickets for carnival fêtes.

The police said that the cheques totalling TT\$45,500 were not honoured by the bank and that, as a result, the woman appeared before the San Fernando High Court on charges of obtaining goods by false pretences.

The TTPS said that the woman, Satie Samaroo, was charged with obtaining goods valued at TT\$34,500 by false pretences and obtaining goods valued at TT\$11,000 by false pretences when she appeared before the court on Monday.

She was granted bail, and the matter was postponed to June 24 this year for a status hearing.

The police said that the operations manager at a San Fernando company on the southwestern coast of the country reported that in July 2025, during the period January 23 and January 24 that year, a woman purchased two packages valued at TT\$34,500 and 15 party tickets valued at TT\$11,000 for a Carnival event.

“Payment was allegedly effected by two cheques, which were accepted as good and valid, and the packages and tickets were handed over to the woman. The cheques were deposited into the company’s bank account, but both were returned dishonoured with the notation ‘Account closed since 2021.’

The police said that several attempts by the company to have the woman honour the payment proved futile and a report was subsequently made to the police.

They said that following investigations, an exercise was conducted on January 22 this year, leading to the arrest of Samaroo.

“The Fraud Squad is reminding business owners and vendors to verify the authenticity of cheques with



their bankers before parting with their goods, or consider switching to electronic forms of payment, if the person

writing the cheque is not known to you or not a regular customer,” the TTPS said in a statement. (CMC)



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## PM Holness to deliver major address at economic forum in Panama

Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness will deliver a major address at Wednesday's inauguration of the Second International Economic Forum – Latin America and the Caribbean, in Panama.

He will do so at the event to be attended by leaders from Panama, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Guatemala, CAF's Executive President, Sergio Díaz-Granados, and the President-elect of Chile, José Antonio Kast.

Organized by CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, the two-day forum is expected to bring together more than 2,500 political, economic, and academic leaders to discuss the region's main challenges and opportunities and to advance solutions that promote growth, inclusion, and competitiveness.

The inaugural session will feature participation from seven heads of government or state, including Holness; Bernardo Arévalo, President of Guatemala; Daniel Noboa, President of Ecuador; Rodrigo Paz, President of Bolivia; Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil; José Raúl Múlino, President of Panama; and Gustavo Petro, President of Colombia.

The event will also include presentations by the 2024 and 2025 Nobel Laureates in Economics, James Robinson and Philippe Aghion, and will host government ministers, business leaders, representatives of international organizations, and leading academics.

Robinson and Aghion are influential economists whose work focuses on the root causes of long-run economic growth, institutions, and innovation.

The forum aims to serve as the main political and economic meeting point for the region, enabling leaders to rethink Latin America and the Caribbean's positioning in an increasingly complex and changing global environment. (Jamaica Gleaner)





Caribbean Union Bank

**Caribbean Union Bank Renews Sponsorship of 2026 Intersecondary School Debate Series and Impromptu Speaking Competition**

**St. John's, Antigua** – Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) is proud to announce its ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries as the official sponsor of the 2026 Caribbean Union Bank Intersecondary School Debate Series and Impromptu Speaking Competition. This marks the eighth consecutive year that CUB has supported this prestigious event, reinforcing its commitment to youth development and educational excellence in Antigua and Barbuda.

The 2026 series begins January 27 and runs through May, offering 4th and 5th form students from public and private schools across the twin-island state an opportunity to challenge themselves and develop vital skills for the future. This year, 15 schools have confirmed their participation, a testament to the growing significance of the event in building students' confidence and academic abilities.

Throughout the competition, students will engage in debates and impromptu speaking sessions that foster critical thinking, effective communication, and respectful discourse. These experiences are instrumental in shaping tomorrow's leaders.

"We are delighted to continue our support for this important initiative," said General Manager, Karen Richardson. "At CUB, we believe that empowering our youth with essential life skills is key to building a brighter future for our communities."

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries expressed gratitude to Caribbean Union Bank for its steadfast support, noting the positive impact the series has had on student development over the years.

The 2026 series promises to inspire, challenge, and showcase the remarkable talents of Antigua and Barbuda's secondary students. All are invited to follow and support this exciting journey.

-END-



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## South Korea's ex-first lady jailed for 20 months for bribery

The wife of South Korea's ousted former president has been sentenced to 20 months in jail for accepting bribes from the controversial Unification Church.

However, the court cleared 52-year-old Kim Keon Hee on charges of stock price manipulation and receiving free opinion polls from a political broker before the 2022 presidential election, which her husband Yoon Suk Yeol won.

Yoon has already been sentenced to five years' in jail for abusing power and obstructing justice in relation to his failed martial law bid in 2024.

This marks the first time in South Korea's history that a former presidential couple are convicted at the same time.

On Wednesday, Judge Woo In-sung at the Seoul Central District Court ruled that Kim had "misused her position as a means of pursuing personal gain".

"The higher [one's] position, the more consciously one must guard against such conduct... The defendant failed to reject solicitations and was preoccupied with self-adornment," the judge said.

In a statement after the verdict, Kim said: "I humbly accept the court's stern admonition and will not take its weight lightly".

"Once again, I sincerely apologise to everyone for the concern I have caused," she added. Kim had previously denied all charges.



A special counsel team appointed to the case said Kim received 80m won (\$56,000; £40,600) of gifts, which include a Graff diamond necklace and several Chanel handbags, from the Unification Church between April and July 2022, in exchange for business and political favours.

The team had sought a 15-year jail term and a fine of 2bn won for all three charges heard on Wednesday - for which Kim was convicted of one - but the judge noted that Kim was not the one who demanded or solicited the bribes, and that she had "no significant criminal record".

She was however ordered to pay back 12.85m won in cash and the court also ordered the confiscation of the diamond necklace.

Kim has also been charged over her alleged involvement in a scheme to recruit Unification Church followers to the conservative People Power Party that her husband was part of, and accepting gifts in exchange for government job appointments. The court has yet to hear those cases.

gy when she appeared for questioning last August. "I am truly sorry that a nobody like me has caused concern to the people," she said.

Investigations into Kim's dealings with the Unification Church had also led to the arrest of church leader Han Hak-ja.

Apart from the criminal allegations, Kim has also been the subject of other controversies. Last year, Sookmyung Women's University annulled an art education degree she graduated with in 1999, after an ethics panel found she had plagiarised her master's thesis. (BBC)

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Dated the 28th day of January, 2026

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Tel#781-5776  
Lendys Mejia

Thursday 29th January 2026

## 'They were just screaming, telling me to help them,' US mother says after brothers, 6, 8 and 9, die in icy pond

Three siblings perished in an icy pond as officials in US states afflicted with severe cold reported at least 45 deaths on Tuesday.

The brothers aged 6, 8 and 9 died Monday after falling through ice on a private pond near Bonham, Texas, Fannin County Sheriff Cody Shook said Tuesday.

The boys' mother said she ran into the freezing lake and frantically tried to pull her sons from the water, but the ice kept breaking beneath them.

"They were just screaming, telling me to help them," Cheyenne Hangaman told The Associated Press. "And I watched all of them struggle, struggle to stay above the water. I watched all of them fight."

Brutal cold lingered in the wake of a massive storm that dumped deep snow across more than 1,300 miles (2,100 kilometers) from Arkansas to New England and left parts of the South coated in treacherous ice.

Freezing temperatures hovered Tuesday as far south as Tennessee, Arkansas and North Carolina, and were forecast to plunge again overnight. Parts of northern Florida were expected to sink to 25 F (minus 3.9 C) late Tuesday into early Wednesday.

The US aviation system was returning to normal after a brutal weekend that saw more than 17,000 commercial flights canceled. There were 7,000



cancellations Monday and about 2,800 Tuesday, according to FlightAware, a flight tracking and data company. Less than 400 were anticipated to be canceled Wednesday.

The arctic misery over the eastern half of the U.S. was expected to worsen Friday and Saturday. The National Weather Service said another winter storm could hit parts of the East Coast this weekend, and more record lows were forecast as far south as Florida.

"This could be the coldest temperature seen in several years for some places and the longest duration of cold in several decades," the agency's Weather Prediction Center warned Tuesday.

More than 448,000 homes and busi-

nesses remained without power Tuesday evening, with over half the outages in Tennessee and Mississippi. Reconnecting some hard-hit areas could take days. Electric utility Entergy said some of its 6,000 customers in Grenada, Mississippi, might not have power until Sunday.

In New York City, officials said 10 people had been found dead outdoors in the cold.

More deaths were reported across a dozen states. They included two people hit by snowplows in Massachusetts and Ohio, two teenagers killed while sledding in Arkansas and Texas, and a man found in his home in the Indianapolis area with no heat. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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## Death toll from US strikes on alleged drug boats reaches 126 people

The death toll from the Trump administration's strikes on alleged drug boats is up to 126 people, with the inclusion of those presumed dead after being lost at sea, the US military confirmed Monday.

The figure includes 116 people who were killed immediately in at least 36 attacks carried out since early September in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean, US Southern Command said.

Ten others are believed dead because searchers did not locate them following a strike.

Eight of the presumed dead had jumped off boats when American forces attacked a trio of vessels accused of trafficking drugs on December 30, the military said.

The number was not released previously, though the military said when announcing those strikes that the US Coast Guard had searched for survivors.

The two other people presumed dead were on boats that were attacked on October 27 and last Friday.

President Donald Trump has said the US is in "armed conflict" with cartels in Latin America and has justified the attacks as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs. But his administration has offered little evidence to support its claims of killing "narcoterrorists."

Critics have questioned the overall legality of the strikes as well as their ef-



fectiveness, in part because the fentanyl behind many fatal overdoses is typically trafficked to the US overland from Mexico, where it is produced with chemicals imported from China and India.

The campaign also drew intense criticism following the revelation that the military killed survivors of the very first boat attack with a follow-up strike.

The Trump administration and many Republican lawmakers said it was legal and necessary, while Democratic lawmakers and legal experts said the killings were murder, if not a war crime.

The boat strikes began amid one of the largest buildups of US military might in Latin America in generations, in a pressure campaign that culminated with the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. He was brought to the US to face drug trafficking charges after the January 3 raid by American forces.

There has been one boat

strike since then, although the US has been more focused on seizing oil tankers connected with Venezuela as part of the Trump administration's broader efforts to take control of the South

American country's oil.

Republicans in Congress have defeated Democratic-led efforts to rein in Trump's ability to conduct further attacks in Venezuela. (AP)

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# Sports News

## Second loss for Antiguans in CONCACAF Women's Under-17 Qualifiers

The Antigua and Barbuda national team suffered their second loss in the opening round of the 2026 CONCACAF Women's Under-17 Qualifiers in Curacao on Tuesday evening.

After launching their campaign in Group C with a humiliating 6-1 loss against Haiti on Sunday, the Antiguans crashed to a 5-0 defeat to Guatemala in their second encounter at Stadion Rignaal "Jean" Francisca in Willemstad.

**Kaylee Luna** opened the scoring in the 27th minute as she beat a defender to a bouncing ball and chipped it over the advancing Antiguan goalkeeper into the back of the net.

Ten minutes later, Guatemala doubled their lead when **Dulce Escobar** took advantage of a bad clearance.

In the 56th minute the scoring con-

tinued as **Monica Martínez** easily converted after receiving a pass from **Emery Aguilar** in the middle of the box. Luna scored her second goal of the match in the 58th minute with a thunderous strike from a distance.

**Mayra Avendaño** wrapped up the victory as she fired a left-footed blast off the post in the second minute of added time.

Meanwhile, Haiti took command of Group C with a dominant 5-0 win over St. Lucia at the same venue on Tuesday.

**Kyrah Lormil** scored twice with goals in the fourth and 17th minutes to give Haiti a quick two-nil lead. Already trailing, St. Lucia was reduced to 10 players as **Ivana Marshall** was expelled after receiving a straight red card.

Haiti capitalized on the advantage as **Krystel Châtelain** tapped

in after collecting a pass from **Léa Jacques** in the 61st minute.

**Keisha Gue** unleashed a rocket from long range to extend the lead with her strike in the 73rd minute.

**Rosalie St. Louis** closed out the victory with a conversion in the 86th minute after pouncing on a loose ball in the six-yard box for the fifth and final goal of the match.

It was St. Lucia's opening match in Group C and also the first-ever meeting in the CONCACAF Women's Under-17 Qualifiers between the two teams.

Antigua and Barbuda are competing in Group C alongside Haiti, Guatemala, the Cayman Islands, and St. Lucia.

The Antiguans will tackle the Cayman Islands on Thursday, January 29, and will play their final match against St. Lucia on Saturday, January 31.



*The players of the Antigua and Barbuda national under-17 women's football team. (Photo courtesy of the ABFA)*

## SAP and Willikies get wins in First Division League



*The players of the SAP football team*

SAP FC and Willikies FC recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League on Tuesday.

SAP FC notched up their fourth win in 10 matches by snatching a one-nil victory against the Greenbay Hoppers at the ABFA Technical Center.

Dennison Stevens struck the winner by scoring the only goal of the match with a strike in the 45th minute.

The Greenbay Hoppers finished the match with 10 players after Yakira Hughes received a red card and was expelled in the 38th minute.

The result allows SAP FC to move on to 17 points, while the Greenbay Hoppers remain in fifth place with 19 points after succumbing to their fourth defeat in 11 matches.

Zahdeir Forde struck a hat trick as

Willikies FC recorded their third win in 11 matches by pulling off a 5-2 victory against Bolans FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Forde had conversions in the 17th, 63rd, and 87th minutes, while the other goals for Willikies FC were scored by Jason Harris in the third minute and Juran Graham in the 56th minute.

The goals for Bolans FC were scored by Kareem Samuel in the 44th minute and Sherquan Daniels in the 89th minute.

The result allows the Willikies FC to move on 11 points, while Bolans FC remains on 12 points after losing for the fourth time in 12 matches.

Meanwhile, the Young Lions of Old Road moved into joint first place with Sea View Farm FC at the top of the ABFA's Second Division on Tuesday.

The Young Lions extended their unbeaten run, claiming their seventh win in nine matches, with a 3-0 victory against Herberts United at the Pigotts playing field.

All the goals came in the first half. Stefan Smith opened the scoring with a fourth-minute conversion, an own goal by Sadiki Govia one minute later gave the Young Lions a two-nil lead, and Deante Anthony wrapped up the victory with a strike in the 23rd minute.

The result allows the Young Lions to join Sea View Farm FC as joint leaders of the Second Division. Both teams have 23 points, but Sea View Farm FC has played 10 matches, one less than the Young Lions.

Herberts FC remains on four points after crashing to their sixth defeat in eight matches.

# Sports News

## Perez leads AGS past SASS in School Basketball League

Derick Perez produced a fine shooting display to lead the Antigua Grammar School (AGS) to a 13-point victory over St. Anthony's Secondary School (SASS) in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday.

Perez shot his way to a game-high 21 points and almost single-handedly propelled Antigua Grammar School to a 36-23 victory over St. Anthony's Secondary School in their Mini Boys Secondary Division encounter.

Perez was supported by Khai Charles, who scored 11 points for AGS. Jerol Henry sank nine points, and Kejonte Hamilton scored six points for St. Anthony's Secondary School.

There were wins as well for Five Islands, Greenbay, and Post Millennial Academy in the Mini Girls Primary Division.

Stevia Carr produced 10 points to lead Five Islands Primary to a 12-0 victory over Sea View Farm Primary.

Shalaya Powell sank six points as Greenbay Primary coasted to a commanding 16-1 victory against SR Olivia David Primary.



Derick Perez

Kymilah Choy converted six points in the 18-0 drub-

bing of the Mary E. Pigott Primary.



# Losing start for Leewards in CG United Women's Super50 Cup



*Players of the Leeward Islands Stormers*

The Leeward Islands Stormers got off to a losing start in the CG United Women's Super50 Cup in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday.

Barbados Women carved out a 79-run win over the Leeward Islands Women at Park Hill in Colonarie. Batting first, Barbados made their way to 144 in 47.5 overs. Naijanni Cumberbatch put on a show with a classy 74 not out from 139 balls with five fours.

She received good support from Asabi Callender with 21 and captain Aaliyah Alleyne with 20. Medium pacer Shanisha Hector continued her good form by bagging four wickets for 19 runs, with off-spinner Davronique Maynard chipping in with three for 22.

Seamers Shamillia Connell and Alleyne then combined to skittle out the Leewards for 65 in 25.5 overs. Connell ended with four for 17 and Alleyne took three wickets

for three runs.

Tonya Martin with 15 and Chey-Ann Moses 11 not out were the only batters for the Leewards to reach double figures.

Defending champions Trinidad & Tobago Women began the defense of their CG United Women's Super50 Cup title on a losing note, after going down by 91 runs to the Windward Islands Women in their opening round fixture at Sion Hill.

Sent in to bat, the Windward Islands Women posted a formidable total of 225 for seven in their allotted 50 overs, West Indies all-rounder Jannillea Glasgow leading the way with 73 from 88 balls, which included nine fours.

She was eventually run out in the final over, as she got good support from veteran West Indies player Afy Fletcher, who weighed in with 61 from 63 balls, with five fours and two sixes.

Another West Indies player, Zaida

James chipped in with 38 against two wickets for Nadia Mohammed.

In reply, T&T got off to the worse possible start, losing two wickets inside three overs with just four runs on the board. Britney Cooper conjured up a brief recovery with a fighting 28 to get them to 54, but wickets continue to tumble at regular intervals.

Lee Ann Kirby, with 31, and captain Karishma Ramharack, 29, tried to resurrect the innings, but when the pair fell, the writing was on the wall.

Afy Fletcher picked up her fourth wicket by removing the last batter, Shalini Samaro, for four, as T&T was all out for 134. Glasgow finished with two wickets for 14 runs.

Guyana Women got the better of Jamaica Women by five wickets at the Cumberland playing field. The Jamaicans made a meal of batting first after winning the toss, as they were skittled out for 76 in 27.3 overs.

Once again, spin did the trick, as the Guyanese trio of Ahsmini Munisar, Kaysia Shultz, and Tramaine Marks picked up eight wickets between them in a lacklustre effort with the bat for the Jamaicans.

Opener Chrishana McKenzie 25, Chedean Nation 12, and Kate Wilmoth 10 were the only batters who got into double figures, as Munisar ended with four for 23, Shultz two for 16 and Marks two for seven.

Shabika Gajnabi then hit an unbeaten 23 to go along with 17 from Sheneta Grimmond to steer Guyana to 77 for five in 27 overs.

## Australia beat Windies to march into U-19 World Cup semis

Australia took one step closer to defending their ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup title as they sealed a semi-final berth with a thrilling win over West Indies at the Harare Sports Club in Zimbabwe on Wednesday.

In the marquee Super Six Group 1 clash, Australia posted a daunting total of 314 for seven. Though West Indies ran them close, the young men from the Caribbean eventually fell short by 22 runs, finishing their innings at 292 for nine off their 50 overs.

Australia are unbeaten in the tournament so far and became the first team from their group to progress to the final four. With eight points from four matches, they have opened up an unassailable lead in Group 1 in the Super Six stage.

Though the result set back West Indies' chance to make the semi-final, the men from the Caribbean still have a minuscule chance, along with Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka.

After West Indies chose to field first, Australia put on a commanding show with the bat. Will Malajczuk (48) and Nitesh Samuel (56) gave them a solid start, stitching a 73-run partnership for the first wicket.

But it was captain Oliver Peake's well-paced 109 that took Australia past the 300-mark. After a quiet start to the tournament, the southpaw came into his own against the West Indies on a batting-friendly strip at the Harare Sports Club.

He struck nine fours and brought up his first century of the tournament with a six over long on. Alex Lee Young (45) and Jayden Draper (29) chipped in with vital contributions



**West Indies** opener Zachary Carter, left, smashed 64 off just 42 balls against Australia during their match in the Super Six stage at the ICC Under-19 Men's World Cup at the Harare Sports Club in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. (Getty Images)

lower down the order.

It was left-arm pacer Jakeem Pollard who returned with the best bowling figures for West Indies, claiming two for 37 in his eight overs. Right-arm pacer R'jai Gittens picked up two for 45.

With a mountain of runs to scale, the West Indies marched out with intent. The left-handed opener Zachary Carter, especially, took the attack to the Australian bowlers.

Even after star Aussie pacer Charles Lachmund ended the 88-run opening partnership as he trapped Tanez Francis (28) leg before wicket, Carter continued to go for his shots. He struck seven fours and four sixes in a blazing innings of 64 off 42 balls.

Just when Carter was threatening to run away with the game, Peake introduced Naden Cooray into the attack. And the leg-spinner repaid his cap-

tain's faith by bowling Carter with his first ball.

Despite Carter's departure, West Indies were able to keep pace with Jewel Andrew and Joshua Dorne at the crease. While Dorne (62) dropped anchor, Andrew scored a quickfire 44 off 48 balls.

Hayden Schiller stalled the West Indies progress with timely wickets of Andrew and Dorne. A late onslaught by Jonathan Van Lange (26 off 19) livened things up, but it wasn't enough to take them over the finish line.

In the end, it was the defending champions' ability to handle pressure that helped them close out the match. Right-arm pacer Charles Lachmund captured four for 66, slow left-arm spinner Aryan Sharma claimed two for 47, and Schiller picked up two for 54.