

Prime Minister Browne Attends World Governments Summit 2026 in Dubai

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Senior officials of the Ministry of Health joined the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams on Saturday night to formally welcome the more than one hundred health professionals from Ghana who have arrived here to be deployed in the healthcare system.

Photo courtesy: Wayne Mariette

Prime Minister Browne Attends World Governments Summit 2026 in Dubai



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is in Dubai, United Arab Emirates this week, to participate in the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2026, scheduled for February 3–5, 2026. The annual summit brings together Heads of State and Government, senior public officials, global CEOs, and leaders of international organisations to engage in high-level dialogue on governance, innovation, and sustainable development.

During the summit, Prime Minister Browne will represent Antigua and Barbuda in a series of main sessions, high-level panel discussions, and strategic engagements, with a focus on tourism-

driven development, investment, creativity, and sustainability, areas in which Antigua and Barbuda continues to be recognised as a global leader among small island developing states.

Speaking ahead of his departure, Prime Minister Browne underscored the importance of Antigua and Barbuda's presence at the global forum.

"The World Governments Summit provides an invaluable platform for small states like Antigua and Barbuda to influence global policy conversations, attract strategic investment, and share practical solutions rooted in resilience, inno-

vation, and sustainable development," Prime Minister Browne said.

As part of the programme, the Prime Minister is expected to attend the main summit sessions, engage in bilateral meetings, and participate in the Future of Tourism Roundtable, where he will share Antigua and Barbuda's experience in positioning tourism as a cornerstone of economic opportunity while advancing resilience-focused planning and sustainability initiatives.

Prime Minister Browne is also slated to contribute to discussions exploring the experience economy, including the role of luxury, creativity, cultural heritage, and tourism in shaping national identity and enhancing global soft power. These discussions will examine how governments can partner with the private sector to foster innovation while safeguarding environmental and cultural assets.

"Our participation allows us not only to learn from global best practices, but also to demonstrate how Antigua and Barbuda has successfully leveraged tour-

ism, infrastructure development, and strategic partnerships to drive inclusive growth," the Prime Minister added.

In addition to formal summit sessions, the Prime Minister will engage with international media and participate in select institutional and innovation-focused visits organised by the summit hosts, aimed at strengthening cooperation in areas such as technology, sustainability, and future-oriented governance.

On Tuesday, February 3, Prime Minister Browne will attend a main session of the World Governments Summit and engage in a series of bilateral meetings. These include a bilateral discussion with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Zimbabwe, Professor Dr. Amon Murwira, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and Zimbabwe's request for support to become a member of the Security Council of the United Nations 2027-2028.

Prime Minister Browne is scheduled to return to Antigua and Barbuda following the conclusion of the summit on February 5, 2026.



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The oneness between Ghanaians and Antiguans and Barbuda was a central theme at welcome ceremony



Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams

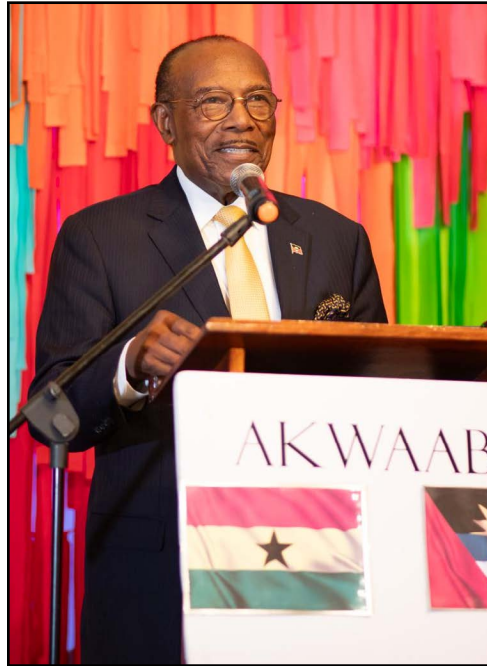
Senior officials of the Ministry of Health joined the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams on Saturday night to formally welcome the more than one hundred health professionals from Ghana who have arrived here to be deployed in the healthcare system.

Sir Rodney, himself a medical doctor, told the Ghanaians that their presence here in Antigua and Barbuda is deeply meaningful as it speaks not only to a practical response to health care needs, but to a shared history and a shared humanity that long predated this moment.

“Across the Atlantic, our peoples are linked by enduring historical ties, ties marked by hardship, resilience, survival and ultimately, renewal. Tonight, we celebrate a chapter that is rooted not in displacement, but in purposeful collaboration and mutual respect,” he remarked.

This partnership, he continued, reflects the very best of what international cooperation can achieve.

Speaking on the same theme, Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph explained that the presence of the 120 nurses and



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph

officials was not symbolic, but rather



strategic, meaningful and essential.

“Strengthening our nursing workforce



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is central to strengthening our health-care system. Nurses are the backbone of service delivery, the guardians of patient dignity, and the daily interface between institutions and communities. By welcoming you, we are not simply filling posts, we are building capacity, resilience and continuity of care for the people of Antigua and Barbuda,” he emphasised.

Sir Molwyn recognized the role of Africans to the development of health-care systems across the globe noting that the continent has produced top doctors and other health professionals who populate many health care systems in both developed and developing nationals alike.

He also noted that by establishing this link with Ghana, it opens the doors for trade between the two nations as well as the recruitment of other professionals such as teachers to undertake the teaching of science subjects and mathematics here in Antigua and Barbuda.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Stacey Gregg-Paige, suggested to the Ghanaians that it took courage to travel long distances to come to Antigua and Barbuda on this mission. “You have travelled great distances to be here. Across countries, across cultures, and across personal transitions. That decision is not a small one. It reflects courage, professionalism, and a deep commitment to service.

“You have not come here simply to



fill positions. You have come here to care for people, and that is work that carries both skill and heart,” she observed.

Gregg-Paige gave the Ghanaians the assurance that as permanent secretary, she will ensure that the ministry does

everything to support their professional work, safeguarding their welfare, and ensuring, that they are treated with fairness, respect, and dignity as valued members of the country’s health workforce.

“We are here to build a bridge,” says Ghanaian health professional



The Coordinator of the Ghanaian health professionals, who is present with the group in Antigua, has described their arrival in Antigua and Barbuda as ‘building a bridge be-



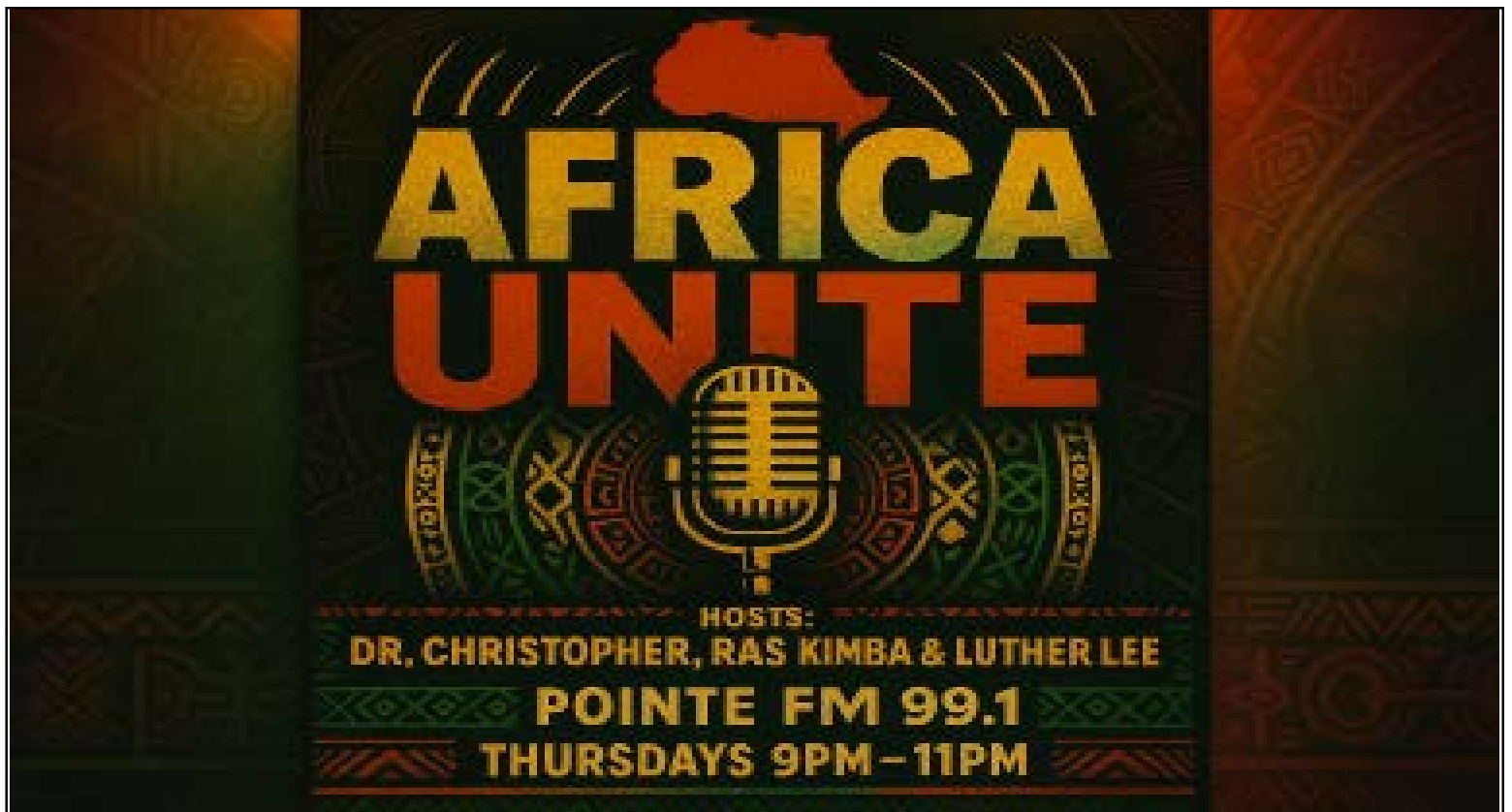
tween the two nations, Ghana and Antigua and Barbuda.

Coordinator, Jackline Owusuasei noted that the bridge of which she speaks, is not built of steel, but



of shared purpose; connecting not just two nations, but a common future in healthcare excellence.

“This journey from the Republic of Ghana to Antigua and Barbuda is a definitive statement. It declares that in the face of global health challenges, our strongest tool is not isolation, but strategic alliance. It affirms that the sovereignty of a nation is strengthened, not weakened, by the dignified exchange of expertise and



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human capital,” she remarked.

She said the mission to Antigua and Barbuda is built on three pillars;

Partnership in Service. This is not a donor-recipient dynamic. This is a sovereign collaboration between sister nations. Ghanaian healthcare professionals embark not as outsiders, but as dedicated partners. They bring world-class skills, yes, but more importantly, a commitment to integrate, to learn from you, and to work alongside their Antiguan and Barbudan counterparts.

A Covenant of Excellence and Respect. Our teams carry with them the full weight of our nation’s expectation. They are directed to serve with the utmost professionalism, integrity, and cultural humility. They pledge to uphold the highest clinical standards while deeply respecting the laws, the traditions, and the people of this beautiful nation. Their success will be measured not just in procedures, but in trust earned and partnerships forged.

Sustainable Legacy. We are not interested in transient gestures. The objective is tangible, sustainable impact — contributing to health system resilience, to skill transfer, and to frameworks that will benefit Antigua and Barbuda long after this specific mission concludes.



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ABRSC underscores Ghana and Antigua and Barbuda's role in the calls for reparative justice



Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission, Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde

Antigua and Barbuda and the West African nation of Ghana are both actively involved in the advocacy movement seeking reparative justice from the European powers who for centuries plundered Africa and who engaged in the Cross-Atlantic slave trade.

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission, Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde, highlighted this fact on Saturday night at the official welcome ceremony for health professionals from Ghana who have arrived here to undertake assignments in the local healthcare system. He reported that many Antiguan and Barbudans trace their ancestry to the Akan and other peoples of modern day Ghana, adding that the country's first named National Hero, was an Akan son, Kwaku Tayki, who was named Prince Klaas, by his enslaver, but who was given the Antiguan name King Court. King Court led the failed 1736 revolt by the enslaved people against British rule in what has been described as one of the earliest and most organized resistance movements against British colonial rule in the Caribbean. He informed the group that both the



ABRSC and the Caribbean Reparations Commission have over the last decade ignited the call for reparations for the descendants of enslaved Africans for the crimes against humanity that past generations have endured and the ongoing legacies of those crimes that today fuel anti-black racism and hinder the social and cultural development of Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora.

"We in the Caribbean find ourselves central to a global movement for reparations of which Ghana has become the most active and influential African country. Your country in 2023 hosted the Accra Reparations Conference – a major international gathering on rep-

arations under the theme: *Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans*," he revealed.

According to Ambassador O'Marde, Ghana went even further as only a few weeks ago, it invited an international team of reparations experts to help leadership prepare a declaration to be presented to the UN for the trans-Atlantic slaver trade to be designated as a crime against humanity.

The ABRSC chairman said his organization embraces the people-to-people connection that this relationship with the Ghanaian professionals and Antigua and Barbuda fosters.

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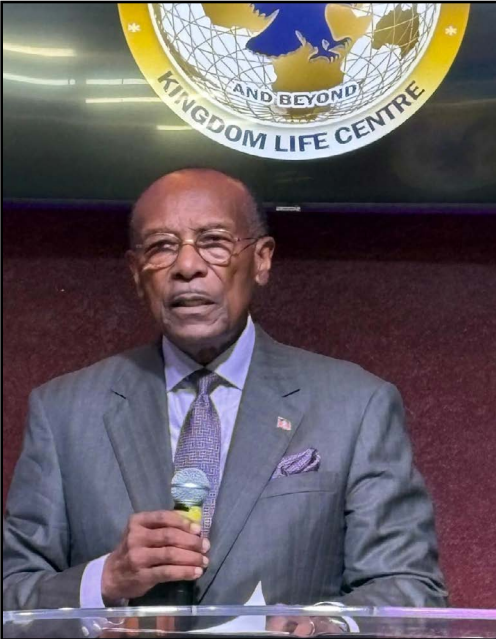
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Ministry of Health concludes cervical cancer awareness month with church service and call for empowerment of survivors



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph

The Ministry of Health marked the conclusion of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month with a church service on February 1st at the All Saints Pentecostal Kingdom Life Centre, underscoring the national commitment to prevention, early detection, and survivor empowerment.

The service brought together faith leaders, health professionals, survivors, and partners including the Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph; Permanent Secretary, Stacey Gregg-Paige; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kamaria DeCastro; Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Teri-Ann Joseph; Head of the Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force, Dr. Cherrie Tulloch, along with members of her team; and other senior technical staff.

Delivering the feature address, Minister Joseph reflected on the month's theme, "Empower the Survivors," emphasizing that survivor empowerment must extend beyond awareness into national responsibility and action.

"We are gathered today in this sacred space to conclude Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, but more importantly, to affirm a deeper national



commitment to dignity, prevention, compassion, and the protection of life," the Minister stated.

Drawing from the Gospel of John, chapter 4, the Minister referenced the woman of Samaria, highlighting the transformation from personal experience to public purpose.

"After her encounter with Jesus, she did not retreat into silence. She returned to her community and said, 'Come and see.' That moment represents transformation into purpose — from survival to service, from experience to influence."

Minister Joseph noted that this biblical narrative mirrors the Ministry's public-health approach to survivor empowerment.

"Survivors are not only recipients of care; they are partners in prevention, education, and transformation. Their voices reduce stigma. Their stories strengthen awareness. Their visibility encourages screening. Their leadership protects future generations."

The Minister further emphasized that empowering survivors is not symbolic but strategic, strengthening prevention systems, supporting early detection, and building trust in health services.

He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to systems that expand access to vaccination, including the HPV vaccine, strengthen screening and diagnosis, ensure equitable treatment, provide survivor support, and protect dignity throughout the health journey.

"No woman should suffer from a preventable disease. No family should face loss because of late detection. No survivor should be left unsupported after treatment," the Minister asserted.

As the service concluded, Minister Joseph called for a shared commitment across church, community, and country to eliminate cervical cancer as a public-health threat and to honour survivors as partners in building a healthier nation.

"May God bless our women. May God strengthen our families. May God guide our leaders. And may God bless Antigua and Barbuda."

The Ministry continues to encourage women and girls to access screening services and HPV vaccination, which are available at public health clinics across the country, as part of the national strategy to eliminate cervical cancer.

Local News

SNRA and PMS students benefit from IHO's GBV Awareness Workshops ahead of GBV Walk 2026



Integrated Health Outreach (IHO) is targeting the nation's youth with its messages design to help bring about an end to gender-based violence.

IHO announced that it conducted workshops on the subject with students at two secondary schools – the Sir Novelle Richards Academy and the Princess Margaret School.

“The workshops, which benefited 39 students overall, are part of the activities leading up to the [Gender-Based](#)


[Violence Walk 2026](#), which is happening on Saturday, March 7th, and is being organised by IHO in partnership with the Directorate of Gender Affairs (DoGA),” IHO said in a statement. The workshops included teaching and interactive components as well as a placard-making session where students put their skills to work designing placards for the GBV Walk 2026. The workshop was led by Pastor Karen Germain, a member of the IHO team and an experienced school


counsellor. Youth from both schools were taught about the forms that gender-based violence takes, the impact it has, the importance of consent, and why the focus of the Walk is on defending the rights of women and girls.

Gender-based violence is violence directed at a person based on their gender. Women and girls experience GBV due to the unequal power relations between the genders and negative social attitudes that promote or tolerate the mistreatment

of women and girls. This can take the form of physical violence, sexual violence, verbal abuse, digital violence, violence from an intimate partner and sexual harassment, among others. These things can happen to anyone, regardless of their gender.

Still, women and girls experience them disproportionately as a consequence of being in societies where the attitudes and gender dynamics normalise such abuse towards women and girls.





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Elite Island Resorts Donates EC\$10,000 to Meals on Wheels Programme



Elite Island Resorts has donated EC\$10,000.00 to support the Meals on Wheels Programme of the Rotary Club of Antigua for the months of January and February, strengthening ongoing efforts to provide food assistance to nearly 100 vulnerable individuals each month.

The contribution was made through the company's philanthropic arm, the Wishing Well Foundation, established by its late Chairman, Sir Robert Barrett.

Speaking at the presentation, Managing Director Sanjay Ambrose said the Foundation continues to honour Sir Robert's legacy of supporting education, community development, and individuals facing medical challenges.

"What we do, we do because we see that it can be impactful and change the life of someone," Ambrose stated. "It's not about public

recognition. It's about making a tangible difference. We were happy to support this cause and look forward to continued collaboration."

President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, Elisa Graham, accepted the donation on behalf of the Club and expressed her profound gratitude for the timely assistance.

Director of Service Projects, Past President Paul Ryan, expressed appreciation for the contribution, noting that the programme costs approximately EC\$5,000.00 per month to provide food items to beneficiaries.

"This donation has come in very handy and will go a long way in helping us assist those in need," he said.

The EC\$10,000.00 contribution will help offset operational costs and ensure the continued delivery of essential food support to members of the community.




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Another Cannabis Seizure at Airport Cargo Facility

The police have made a second cannabis seizure at the Custom Cargo Shed at V. C. Bird International Airport, in less than 24 hours.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 30, officers attached to the Narcotics Department and the Customs Enforcement Unit, discovered a cardboard box with eleven (11) vacuum-sealed packages containing vegetable material resembling the controlled drug cannabis.



The packages were seized and transported to Police Headquarters, where they were weighed and found to amount to thirteen (13) pounds, with an estimated street value of EC\$78,000.00.

On Thursday, a similar operation resulted in the seizure of over thirteen pounds of cannabis with an estimated street value of EC \$79,200.00

Investigations into both seizures remain ongoing.

Donte Hunkins Recaptured

The police have recaptured wanted fugitive Donte Hunkins, who had escaped from police custody over a month ago.

Hunkins was located in an abandoned building in the Whenner Road area on Saturday and was apprehended by the police.

He was taken into custody and is currently assisting police with ongoing investigations into allegations of fraud and escaping lawful custody.

A 17-year-old female was also found inside the building and taken into custody as investigations continue.

The Police Administration extends sincere thanks to members of the general public for their assistance and continued support, which



played a critical role in the recapture of the suspect.

Meanwhile, Aadham O'Garro, 25, of Grays Farm, has been convicted and sentenced to His Majesty's Prison for firearm-related offences.

O'Garro appeared before Chief Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel at St. John's Magistrate's Court on Friday, and pleaded guilty to Possession of Firearm and Ammunition.

He was sentenced to two (2) years' imprisonment for possession of a firearm and one (1) year for possession of ammunition. The sentences are to run concurrently.

The conviction resulted from a joint police operation carried out in the Green Bay area around on Saturday, January 24.

During the operation, officers seized one Glock 17 (9mm) pistol along with fifteen (15) rounds of 9mm ammunition.

O'Garro was among three suspects arrested and taken into custody.

Bonnietha Brings Hope and Inspiration to Holy Trinity Primary School in Barbuda

Bonnietha John is again demonstrating her commitment to education and youth development in Barbuda.

Last Friday, she paid a special visit to Holy Trinity Primary School in Codrington delivering a practical learning surprise — an educational tablet — to a Grade Six student, providing a timely boost to support studies, research, and preparation for the upcoming Common Entrance examinations.

The moment was filled with excitement and gratitude as the surprised student beamed with joy, warmly thanking Bonnietha for her thoughtful gesture.

The student expressed how meaningful, necessary, and helpful the donation was, especially at this critical stage of academic preparation.

Bonnietha's continued efforts to uplift young learners have not gone unnoticed. Her actions speak volumes about the importance of investing in education and providing children with the tools they need to succeed. This latest act of generosity has once again sparked hope and motivation within the school community.

Parents, teachers, and students alike praised Bonnietha for her dedication, describing her as a true champion for education in Barbuda.

As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child — and Bonnietha continues to lead by example, ensuring that no child is left behind.



**TUES - FRIDAY
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The Quiet Guardians of Caribbean Integration

A salute to Warren Smith

I knew Warren Smith from his days at LIAT in Antigua and Barbuda through to his later service at the Caribbean Development Bank. Across those roles, and across those years, one thing never changed: he was a gentleman.

Warm in personality, respectful in manner, and thoughtful in engagement, Warren Smith had a rare ability to explain complex development issues without condescension or defensiveness. Journalists were not treated as adversaries or inconveniences, but as partners in the task of telling the development story, carefully, responsibly, and with context. That quality alone placed him firmly within a special tradition of Caribbean public service.

Warren Smith, former President of the Caribbean Development Bank, former Chief Executive Officer of LIAT, and a senior Jamaican civil servant, belongs to a long and distinguished line of Caribbean public servants who have laboured quietly in the vineyard of regional integration since at least the 1940s. They were never seekers of applause. They did not crave the plaudits that politicians often attract. Yet their work has been foundational to the survival and steady advancement of the Caribbean project.

They may not have been household names, but their decisions had a critical and lasting impact on Caribbean households. Choices made quietly in boardrooms, ministries, and regional institutions shaped livelihoods, preserved transport links, financed development, stabilised economies, and helped small societies weather repeated shocks. The benefits were rarely dramatic or headline-grabbing, but they were real, felt in jobs protected, services sustained, opportunities created, and dignity maintained.

A closer look at this pantheon reveals



several shared and distinguishing characteristics. Chief among them was respect, extended equally to the powerful and the powerless. They were generous with their knowledge and experience, brutally honest without being offensive, and quietly committed champions of the disadvantaged. They carried no airs. Many rose to the highest offices without partisan sponsorship, guided instead by competence, credibility, and trust.

These guardians of the regional system rarely defended themselves in public. More often, they absorbed unfair criticism with restraint, understanding it as part of the burden of leadership. In doing so, they shielded the institutions they led and the people they served, from the full force of political and public onslaught. Their loyalty was to the mission, not to personal reputation.

Warren Smith embodied this tradition. At LIAT, he worked in an environment where regional aviation was often criticised but rarely understood. At the Caribbean Development Bank, he presided over a complex development agenda that demanded balance, patience, and long-term thinking. In both spaces, he brought calm authority and a deep sense of stewardship.

For those of us in the media, he was a reminder that transparency and respect are not weaknesses in leadership, but strengths. He understood that development is not only about finance and policy, but about communication about helping Caribbean people understand the choices being made in their name.

Those who now occupy the commanding heights of regional institutions would do well to study the records of these Caribbean giants, not as nostalgia, but as guidance. Their example remains a source of reassurance and support as the integration movement faces new pressures and renewed scrutiny.

Today, we add Warren Smith to that roll call with respect, gratitude, and a clear understanding of the legacy he leaves behind.

As we reflect on Warren Smith's life and work, it is worth pausing to acknowledge how many others have served in similar fashion, quietly, competently, and with integrity, across our regional institutions, public services, and development agencies.

These individuals rarely seek recognition. Yet their influence is woven into the everyday functioning of Caribbean life. If this tribute prompts readers to recall a public servant, regional official, or institutional leader who worked in that same spirit of respect, generosity, and restraint, then it will have served its purpose.

The Caribbean project has always depended on such people.

Julian Rogers, MBE, Member of the Bajan Empire

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Editor's Note:

The Caribbean Development Bank announced Warren Smith's passing last Friday.



February 2 | World Wetlands Day

Where Mangroves Stand, the Island Stands

Where mangroves stand and waters meet,
 The island finds a steady beat.
 Not shaped by haste nor paved with pride,
 But built by roots that hold the tide.

They rise where land and sea agree,
 A living wall, resilient, free.
 While concrete cracks and barriers bend,
 Wetlands stand firm, again, again.

They catch the rain when skies turn grey,
 They slow the floods along the way.
 When storms arrive with angry sound,
 Wetlands keep our homes on ground.



In Antigua and Barbuda's bays,
 They've worked for us through countless days.
 Through hurricanes and heavy rain,
 They soften loss and ease the pain.

Wetlands breathe where land lies low,
 They guide the water's careful flow.
 Salt ponds, marsh, and mangrove line
 Protect the coast through space and time.

Fish are born where waters rest,
 Cradled deep in roots they're blessed.
 From sheltered maze to open sea,



They grow to feed both you and me.

Birds arrive with wings outspread,
 Drawn to wetlands overhead.
 They nest, they feed, they pass on through,
 A living sign of systems true.

Tourists pause, their lenses rise,
 To watch the wetlands fill the skies.
 Nature's beauty, calm and wild,
 Draws the visitor, charms the child.

Yet still too often we forget
 The value here, the rising threat.
 We drain, we dump, we fill with haste,
 Calling protection "unused space."

Plastic drifts where life should grow,
 Clogging paths where waters flow.
 What's tossed aside without a care
 Returns as floods, as loss, repair.

Each careless act, each silent choice,
 Weakens nature's patient voice.
 Salt ponds shrink, mangroves fall,



Disturb the land, release the hold,
And warming spreads, the science told.
Protect the wetland, keep it whole,



It cools the earth, it plays its role.

These places are not wild by chance,
They balance nature's careful dance.
Between the shore, between the sea,
They choose resilience naturally.

So who must act, and who must lead?
The answer lies in shared decree.
From household bin to planning chart,
Each choice becomes a climate part.

Teach the child why roots run deep,
Why wetlands work while we all sleep.
Let schools and churches, youth and town
Lift wetlands up, not tear them down.

Because where mangroves stand, we stand,
A safer shore, a stronger land.
Protect the wetland, protect the shore,
Protect the future worth fighting for.

World Wetlands Day is more than rhyme,
It's action needed—now, not time.
For where mangroves stand, the island stands,
Our hope held firm in living lands.


And rising seas collect the toll.

But wetlands store more than the eye,
They help the warming world defy.
Carbon locked in mud and root
Plays a quiet, vital suit.

The United Nations makes it clear,
Wetlands matter year to year.
“Among the most productive found,”
They guard our water, seas, and ground.



UNESCO too has made the case,
That heritage is tied to place.
Island futures, firm and strong,
Depend on ecosystems long.

So what will happen if we wait?
If short-term gain decides our fate?
If roots are lost and ponds run dry,
Who pays the cost when floods run high?



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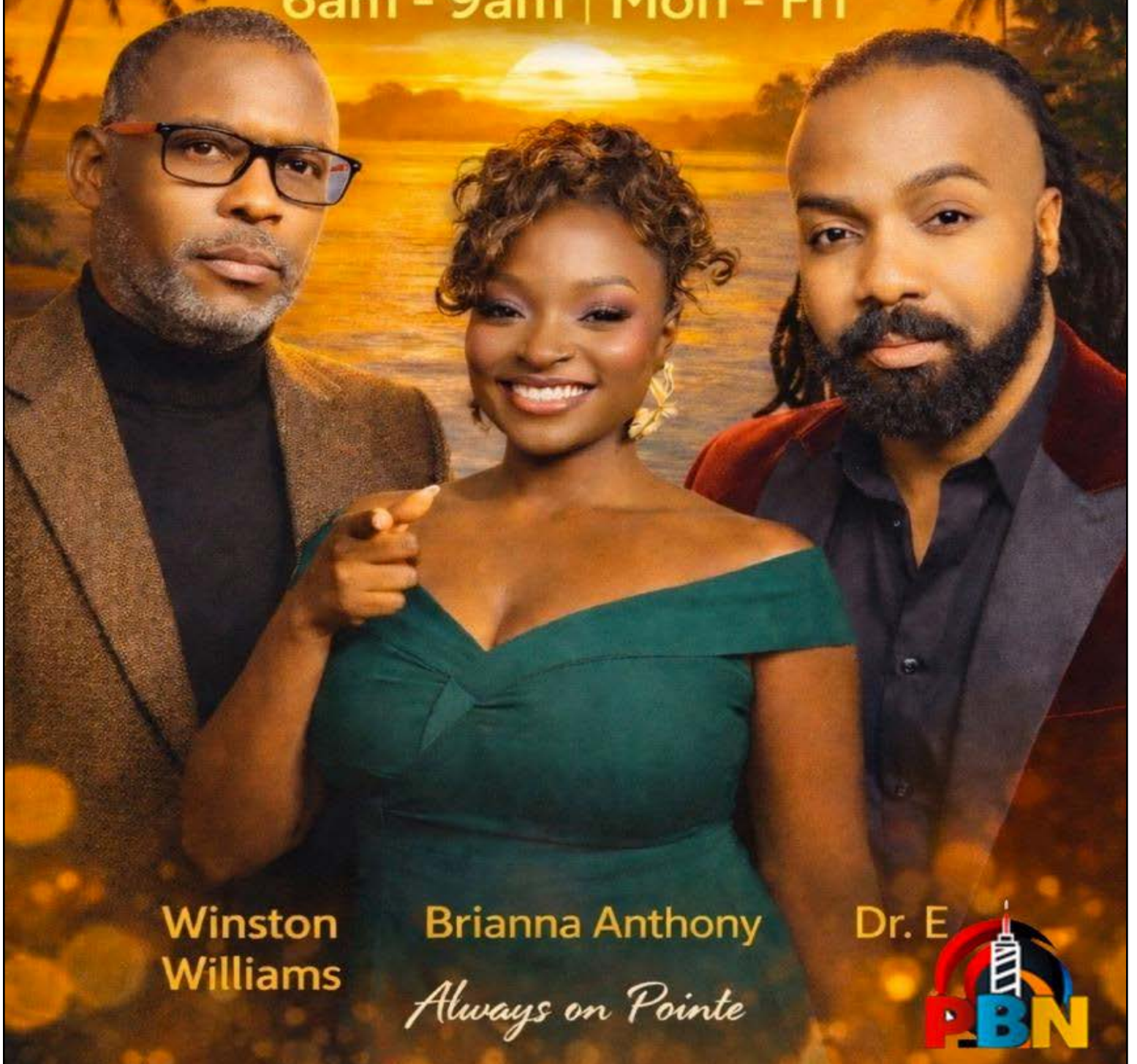
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The flame of grace returns

Under the auspices of Senator Michael Joseph

Tighter Jamaica Customs screening coming for bags and cargo of arriving passengers

The passenger bags and cargo of Jamaicans arriving home as well as visitors are set to undergo greater scrutiny as the Jamaica Customs Agency moves to crack down on illicit goods.

Jamaica Customs has indicated that arriving passengers' bags and air cargo will be scanned before reaching the baggage claim area, as part of efforts to further strengthen Jamaica's border protection framework.

The agency says this will allow for earlier identification of illicit goods, reduce reliance on physical searches, and support smoother passenger flow at airports without compromising security.

According to Jamaica Customs, the initiative forms part of the agency's broader modernisation agenda, which leverages technology, intelligence, and risk-based targeting to address emerging threats and strengthen national border security.

Kingsley Henry, Senior Director for Non-Intrusive Inspection and Security at Jamaica Customs, explained that current scanning operations are diffused, requiring significant human and technical resources.

Speaking during a Customs Week webinar on Thursday, January 29, 2026, Henry said expanding scanning capacity will allow the agency to centralise inspection processes, improve operational efficiency, and enhance detection capabilities.

"Our intention is to bring every piece of cargo coming into Jamaica to a point where we can scan it



with the greatest confidence," he said.

"Once scanned, we can release it with the greatest confidence, confirming that it is free of narcotics, firearms, or any other prohibited items," he added.

Henry further indicated that the model will provide greater assurance to both Customs and travellers.

"When passengers proceed through the Green Channel after collecting their bags, Customs will already have a high level of confidence that there is nothing prohibited inside."

He also appealed to industry stakeholders for their support, noting that the agency will soon begin its engagement process. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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Cubans scramble to survive as US vise on island tightens in push to oust government

Cubans are hustling to become more self-sufficient as the US government tightens its economic noose over the communist-run island in a move experts say is meant to force a popular uprising and usher in a new government.

A sharp increase in US sanctions was already suffocating Cubans when critical oil shipments from Venezuela were disrupted after the US attacked the South American country and arrested its leader.

The long-term repercussions of those halted shipments have yet to hit Cuba, but its people are not waiting.

Some are installing solar panels while others are growing their own crops or returning to a simpler way of life, one that doesn't rely on technology or petroleum.

"It's how you survive," said Jose Ángel Méndez Faviel. "It's best to depend on yourself."

Méndez recently moved from the centre of Havana to a farm in the rural community of Bacuranao because of Cuba's severe blackouts.

At the farm, he can cook with firewood and charcoal, something unthinkable in a darkened city apartment.

Méndez said he doesn't know what to



make of US President Donald Trump's threats against Cuba, but he's not taking any chances. He's stocking up on gasoline, charcoal and produce, which he began planting three months ago at his farm.

Méndez also is thinking of buying back his old horse that he sold in favour of motorized equipment to transport vegetables he sells at local markets.

"You don't need fuel for a horse," he said. "We need to go back in time."

Before the US attacked Venezuela

and disrupted oil shipments to Cuba, the island already was struggling with chronic blackouts, soaring prices and a lack of basic goods.

With experts warning of a potentially catastrophic economic crisis, some wonder if Cuba is reaching its breaking point. For Trump, who signed an executive order Thursday that would impose a tariff on any goods from countries that sell or provide oil to Cuba, it's all but guaranteed.

"Cuba is really a nation that is very close to failing," he recently said. (AP)



Regional News

Cayman Islands sends US\$1 million to support Jamaica's hurricane recovery

The Cayman Islands Government has sent US\$1 million to Jamaica to help the island recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa.

This was part of the US\$1.2 million pledge made in October last year in the wake of the hurricane.

The money will be used for a community voucher programme, education recovery, and agricultural restoration.

On October 30, in the immediate aftermath of the storm, the government sent a shipment of emergency relief supplies valued at nearly US\$200,000, which was delivered by a delegation led by Premier André Ebanks.

Officials explained that the voucher programme, which accounts for US\$333,000 of the funds sent, enables residents in need to purchase building materials for home repairs while also stimulating economic activity in affected communities.

The same amount will go to the education sector to help rebuild schools and procure essential educational supplies, such as textbooks, chalkboards and tools, and US\$334,000 will go toward the agricultural restoration programme to support farmers in recovering lost crops and livestock, enabling them to resume operations and restore economic stability in the west.

Ebanks said disbursing the remainder of the pledged funds underscores Cayman's enduring partnership with Jamaica's government and people.

"The Cayman Islands continues to stand firmly with Jamaica during this critical period of recovery. Our contribution reflects our shared Caribbean bonds and our belief in Jamaica's resilience. As recovery continues, we remain committed to offering meaningful support that helps communities recover, livelihoods restart, and families look to the future with renewed hope," he said.

"We recall the profound impact Hurricane Ivan had on our own islands, and we remain grateful for the com-



passion Jamaica extended to us during that difficult time," he added.

Ebanks noted the shared history of

Cayman and Jamaica and their mutual responsibility to one another as neighbours. (CMC)



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Dominica wins Miss OECS Pageant again

Dominica has won the Miss OECS Pageant title twice in a row, with the reigning Miss Dominica Tanisha Balson securing the crown at Friday night's competition held at the Windsor Park Sports Stadium (Carnival City).

Balson, who remained consistent in every round of the competition on Friday, outperformed four other contestants.

She copped the awards for Best Creative National Wear, Best in Creative National Wear, Best Evening Wear and Best Performing Talent.

Miss Antigua & Barbuda Kia Kirwan grabbed the 1st runner up spot and won the awards for Best in Evening Wear, Best in Swimwear and Miss Amity. And Miss Anguilla Ariel Bushay who secured the 2nd Runner Up position won the awards for Best Swimwear, Best Response to Question and Best Promotional Video.

The other contestants were Donyelle



Hodge of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Dahvana Providence of St Vincent & the Grenadines.

Dominica's Kyanna Dyer won the Miss OECS Pageant Title last year. (Dominica News Online)

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United Nations faces 'imminent financial collapse' without urgent action, UN chief says

The United Nations chief is warning that the world body faces "imminent financial collapse" unless its financial rules are overhauled or all 193 member nations pay their dues — a message likely directed at the United States and the billions it owes.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a letter to all UN member nations obtained Friday by The Associated Press that cash for its regular operating budget could run out by July, which could dramatically affect its operations.

"Either all member states honour their obligations to pay in full and on time — or member states must fundamentally overhaul our financial rules to prevent an imminent financial collapse," he said.

While Guterres didn't name any country in the letter, which was reported earlier by Reuters, the financial crisis comes as the US, traditionally the largest donor, has not paid its mandatory dues to the United Nations.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly said the United Nations has potential but has not lived up to it.

His administration has withdrawn from UN organisations like the World Health Organization and the cultural agency UNESCO, while pulling funding from dozens of others.



The US now owes \$2.196 billion to the UN's regular budget, including \$767 million for this year and for prior years, according to UN officials, who were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The US also owes \$1.8 billion for the separate budget for the UN's far-flung peacekeeping operations, and that also will rise.

The country second on the list for not paying dues is Venezuela, which owes \$38 million, the official said. The country, whose economy was struggling before the US military raid this month that deposed then-President Nicolás Maduro, has already lost its right to vote in the General Assembly for being two years in arrears.

Guterres said the UN ended 2025 with a record \$1.568 billion in outstanding dues, more than double the amount outstanding at the end of 2024. The UN official said the Trump administration did not pay any dues last year.

Because so much is owed, the UN's liquidity reserves nearly have been exhausted, Guterres said, and unless payments drastically improve, the UN will not be able to fulfil the \$3.45 billion regular budget for 2026 approved unanimously in December by the assembly's 193 members.

The secretary-general stressed another major problem that he has raised repeatedly: Under U.N. financial rules, the organization is required to pay back unspent money from the regular budget to member states — even if it hasn't received that money in payments.

He urged UN member nations to change the requirement immediately.

"I cannot overstate the urgency of the situation we now face," he said. "We cannot execute budgets with uncollected funds, nor return funds we never received."

The US mission to the UN didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment. (AP)



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Epstein files lead to resignation in Slovakia and calls in Britain for former prince to cooperate



Newly disclosed U.S. government files on Jeffrey Epstein have prompted the resignation of a top official in Slovakia and revived calls in Britain for a former prince to share what he knows with authorities about Epstein's links to powerful individuals around the world.

The fallout comes just a day after the Justice Department began releasing a massive trove of files that offers more details about Epstein's interactions with the rich and famous after he served time for sex crimes in Florida. The prime minister of Slovakia accepted the resignation on Saturday of an official, Miroslav Lajcak, who once had a yearlong term as president of the U.N. General Assembly. Lajcak wasn't accused of wrongdoing but left his position after photos and emails revealed he had met with Epstein in the years after Epstein was released from jail.

The disclosures also have revived questions about whether long-time Epstein friend Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly known as Prince Andrew, should cooperate with U.S. authorities investigating Epstein.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Saturday suggested Mountbatten-Windsor should tell American investigators whatever he knows about Epstein's activities. The former prince has so far ignored a request from members of the U.S. House Oversight Committee for a "transcribed interview" about his "long-standing friendship" with Epstein.

President Donald Trump's Justice Department said it would be releasing more than 3 million pages of documents along with more than 2,000 videos and 180,000 images under a law intended to reveal most of the material it collected during two decades of investigations involving the wealthy financier.

Making his first public comments about the release, Trump cast the documents as a vindication of his actions. "I didn't see it myself but I was told by some very important people that not only does it absolve me, it's the opposite of what people were hoping, you know, the radical left," he told reporters Saturday night as he flew to Florida.

The files, posted to the department's

website, included documents involving Epstein's friendship with Mountbatten-Windsor, and Epstein's email correspondence with onetime Trump adviser Steve Bannon, New York Giants co-owner Steve Tisch and other prominent contacts with people in political, business and philanthropic circles, such as billionaires Bill Gates and Elon Musk.

Other documents offered a window into various investigations, including ones that led to sex trafficking charges against Epstein in 2019 and his long-time confidant Ghislaine Maxwell in 2021, and an earlier inquiry that found evidence of Epstein abusing underage girls but never led to federal charges. Robert Fico, Slovakia's prime minister, said Saturday that he had accepted the resignation of Lajcak, his national security adviser.

Lajcak, a former Slovak foreign minister, hasn't been accused of any wrongdoing, but emails showed that Epstein had invited him to dinner and other meetings in 2018.

The records also include a March 2018 email from Epstein's office to former Obama White House general counsel Kathy Ruemmler, inviting her to a get-together with Epstein, Lajcak and Bannon, the conservative activist who served as Trump's White House strategist in 2017.

Lajcak said his contacts with Epstein were part of his diplomatic duties. Pressure mounted for his ouster from opposition parties and a nationalist partner in Fico's governing coalition. The FBI started investigating Epstein in July 2006 and agents expected him to be indicted in May 2007, according to the newly records released. A prosecutor wrote up a proposed indictment after multiple underage girls told police and the FBI that they had been paid to give Epstein sexualized massages.

The draft indicated prosecutors were preparing to charge not just Epstein

International

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but also three people who worked for him as personal assistants.

According to interview notes released Friday, an employee at Epstein's Florida estate told the FBI in 2007 that Epstein once had him buy flowers and deliver them to a student at Royal Palm Beach High School to commemorate her performance in a school play.

The employee, whose name was blacked out, said some of his duties were fanning \$100 bills on a table near Epstein's bed, placing a gun between the mattresses in his bedroom and cleaning up after Epstein's frequent massages with young girls, including disposing of used condoms.

Ultimately, the U.S. attorney in Miami at the time, Alexander Acosta, signed off on a deal that let Epstein avoid federal prosecution. Epstein pleaded guilty instead to a state charge of soliciting prostitution from someone under age 18 and got an 18-month jail sentence. Acosta was Trump's first labor secretary in his earlier term.

The records have thousands of references to Trump, including emails in which Epstein and others shared news articles, commented on his policies, or gossiped about him and his family.

Mountbatten-Windsor's name appears at least several hundred times, including in Epstein's private emails. In a 2010 exchange, Epstein appeared to set him up for a date.

"I have a friend who I think you might enjoy having dinner with," Epstein wrote.

Mountbatten-Windsor replied that he "would be delighted to see her."

Epstein, whose emails often contain typographical errors, wrote later in the exchange: "She 26, russian, clevere beautiful, trustworthy and yes she has your email."

The Justice Department is facing criticism over how it handled the latest disclosure.

One group of Epstein accusers said in a statement that the new documents made it too easy to identify those he abused but not those who might have been involved in Epstein's criminal activity.

"As survivors, we should never be the ones named, scrutinized, and retraumatized while Epstein's enablers continue to benefit from secrecy," it said. Meanwhile, Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, pressed the department to let lawmakers review unredacted versions of the files as soon as Sunday. He said in a statement that Congress must assess whether the redactions were lawful or improperly shielded people from scrutiny.

Department officials have acknowledged that many records in its files are duplicates, and it was clear from the documents that reviewers took

different degrees of care or exercised different standards while blacking out names and other identifying information.

There were multiple documents where a name was left exposed in one copy, but redacted in another.

The released records reinforced the Epstein was, at least before he ran into legal trouble, friendly with Trump and former President Bill Clinton. None of Epstein's victims who have gone public has accused Trump, a Republican, or Clinton, a Democrat, of wrongdoing. Both men said they had no knowledge Epstein was abusing underage girls.

Epstein killed himself in a New York jail in August 2019, a month after being indicted.

In 2021, a federal jury in New York convicted Maxwell, a British socialite, of sex trafficking for helping recruit some of his underage victims. She is serving a 20-year prison sentence.

U.S. prosecutors never charged anyone else in connection with Epstein's abuse. One victim, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, sued Mountbatten-Windsor, saying she had sexual encounters with him starting at age 17. The now-former prince denied having sex with Giuffre but settled her lawsuit for an undisclosed sum.

Giuffre died by suicide last year at age 41. (AP)



Iran's supreme leader warns of regional war if US attacks



Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has warned that any attack would spark a regional conflict, as the US continues to build up its forces nearby.

"The Americans should know that if they start a war, this time it will be a regional war," Khamenei was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

Donald Trump earlier said Iran was in "serious discussions" and he hoped they would lead to something "acceptable", while Iran's top security official Ali Larijani also said a framework for negotiations was progressing.

Trump has threatened to intervene in Iran over its nuclear ambitions and after its deadly crackdown on anti-government protests.

As part of its build up of forces, the US has sent its aircraft carrier the USS Abraham Lincoln to the region and late last week US Central Command said it was operating in the Arabian Sea.

"[Trump] regularly says that he brought ships... The Iranian nation shall not be scared by these things," added Khamenei.

Iran is expected to begin a two-day live-fire naval exercise on Sunday in the Strait of Hormuz - one of the world's most important shipping lanes and a key route for energy supplies.

Around a fifth of the world's traded oil passes through the waterway, which is about 33km (21 miles) wide at its narrowest point between Iran and Oman. Iran has in the past threatened to close the strait if it were attacked.

The US has warned Iran against any "unsafe and unprofessional behaviour" near its forces in the area.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi responded by saying: "The US military is now attempting to dictate how our Powerful Armed Forces should conduct target practice in their own turf."

On Saturday, two explosions in Iran heightened anxiety in the country. Local authorities said a blast that killed one and hurt 14 at a building in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas was caused by a gas leak.

Tasnim denied social media reports that a Revolutionary Guards Corps navy commander had been targeted in the blast.

In the south-western city of Ahvaz, at least four people were killed in another explosion, with local authorities again blaming a gas leak, according to Iran's Tehran Times.

On Thursday, Trump said he had told Iran that it had to do two things to avoid US military action: "Number one, no nuclear. And number two, stop killing protesters."

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency says it has confirmed the killing of more than 6,300 people since the unrest began in late December, and is investigating another 17,000 reported deaths.

Another group, the Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR), has warned the final toll could exceed 25,000.

Protesters have told the BBC that the lethal crackdown by security forces was unlike anything they had witnessed before.

In his remarks on Sunday, Khamenei accused protesters of attacking police, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and other facilities including banks and mosques

"The coup was suppressed," Tasnim quoted him as saying. (BBC)

Guydadli Jets return to the top of Second Division League



The Guydadli Jets football team

The Guydadli Jets maintained their unbeaten run during the latest round to return to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

Michael Peters scored four times as the Guydadli Jets notched up their eighth win in nine matches with a 10-0 drubbing of the Young Warriors, who played with nine men, at the Buckleys playing field.

Peters had conversions in the second, 23rd, 29th, and 31st minutes. Nine of the goals came in the first half, in which Keyondre Hewlett scored in the 18th minute, Imani Joyce struck home in the 29th minute, and Teeray Layne converted a penalty kick in the 41st minute. The other goal was scored by

Terroy Alen Ponde in the 49th minute.

The result allows the Guydadli Jets to move ahead of Sea View Farm into first place. The Guydadli Jets advanced to 25 points, two more than Sea View Farm FC, which has played 10 matches.

The Young Warriors remain without any points after crashing to their sixth defeat in as many matches.

Police extended their unbeaten run by claiming their fifth win in eight matches with a 5-0 victory against TAMO FC at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Terrel Richards struck a first-half hat trick with conversions in the first, 13th, and 31st minutes. The other goals were scored by Dimitri Scotland

in the 51st minute and Ramar Perry in the 55th minute.

The result allows Police to move on to 18 points, while TAMO FC remain on three points after losing for the seventh time in eight matches.

Blackburn Palace notched up their fifth win in nine matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Bethesda SC at the Bethesda playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Tarique Gomes broke the deadlock with a 49th-minute conversion, and Diondre Harrigan added a second with a strike in the 59th minute to wrap up the victory.

The result allows Blackburn Palace to move on to 16 points, while Bethesda remains on 13 points after suffering their second defeat in seven matches.

Point West Ham notched up their second win in six matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against Earthquakes FC at the Fort Road playing field.

All five goals came in the first half, in which Anderson Herbert scored in the 13th minute to put West Ham ahead. Ajay Barthley equalized for Earthquakes FC with a strike in the 15th minute.

Goals by Jahmarley Barzy in the 33rd minute and Dale Barton in the 39th minute gave Point West Ham a 3-1 lead. Shakir Perry produced a 42nd-minute conversion for Earthquake FC to reduce the deficit.

The result allows Point West Ham FC to move on to seven points, while Earthquake remains on six points after losing for the sixth time in eight matches.



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Golden Grove advance to third place in First Division League



Players of the Golden Grove football team

Golden Grove moved from fourth to third place during the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

Golden Grove notched up their seventh win in 12 matches by snatching a one-nil victory against FC Master Ballerz at Radio Range in Ottos.

Nyique Baptiste struck the winner by converting the only goal of the match in the 48th minute.

The result allows Golden Grove FC to advance to 23 points, the same as the Freemans Village Scorpions, who remain in second place by virtue of a superior goal difference.

The Scorpions have also played 10 matches, two less than Golden Grove FC. FC Master Ballerz re-

main on nine points after succumbing to their seventh defeat in 12 matches.

There was success as well for Parham FC, which recorded their fifth win in 12 matches by pulling off a 2-1 victory against Bendals FC at the Cashew Hill playing field.

A 34th-minute conversion by Dale Gardner gave Parham a one-nil advantage at halftime. Parham doubled their lead via a strike by Andy Daniel in the 75th minute.

Daren Stevens reduced the deficit for Bendals FC by scoring a consolation goal in the 83rd minute.

The result allows Parham FC to move on to 18 points, while Bendals FC remains on nine points after losing for the eighth time in 13 games.

However, English Harbour FC and the Cedar Grove Blue Jays played to a 1-1 draw in their latest encounter at English Harbour.

Following a goalless first half, Akeem Weekes broke the deadlock with a conversion in the 54th minute to give English Harbour the lead.

Ja-Rohn Thomas salvaged the draw for the Cedar Grove Blue Jays by scoring the equalizer with a strike in the 77th minute.

The result allows English Harbour FC to move on to 13 points after recording their first draw in 13 matches.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain at the bottom of the standings with eight points after salvaging their second draw in 11 matches.

Sports News

Antiguans win final match in CONCACAF Women's U-17 Qualifiers

The Antigua and Barbuda national team wrapped up their campaign in the opening round of the 2026 CONCACAF Women's Under-17 Qualifiers in Curacao with a 5-3 victory over St. Lucia in their final match in Group C on Saturday.

Keitonya Skepple struck a hat trick to lead Antigua and Barbuda to their only win in the tournament at Stadion Rignaal "Jean" Francisca in Willemstad.

Skepple led the way for Antigua and Barbuda by scoring her first goal in the 35th minute with a thunderous free kick. She added the other two in the second half with a header in the 78th minute and her final tally in the third minute of added time.

Nafisa Quashie scored twice, with a goal in the 42nd minute and a free kick blast of her own in the 73rd minute. However, Quashie was also credited with an own goal in the 30th minute.

St. Lucia's other two goals came from **Kayla Polius** in the 54th minute and **Kyla Lionel** in the fourth minute of added time.

The Antiguan suffered their third straight loss in Group C on Thursday. After suffering a humiliating 6-1 defeat to Haiti and getting a 5-0

drubbing from Guatemala in their first two games in Group C, the Antiguan were beaten 4-3 by the Cayman Islands in their third encounter.

The Cayman Islands jumped out to a three-nil lead as **Cosabella Windsor** scored in the ninth minute with a header. **Reese Bateson** doubled the lead in the 23rd minute with a left-footed strike, and **Olivia Ridley** got the third in the 34th minute as she knocked in a loose ball.

Antigua and Barbuda got on the board in the 38th minute with a goal from **Keitonya Skepple**, but Bateson scored her second goal of the match to give the Cayman Islands a 4-1 lead.

Skepple scored again in the 42nd minute as Antigua and Barbuda got their second conversion as part of an action-packed six-goal first half.

Antigua and Barbuda reduced the deficit with a goal from **Nafisa Quashie** in the 61st minute. The Antiguan girls searched for an equalizer, but the Cayman Islands did enough to hold them off and earn their first win in the five-team group.

Meanwhile, St. Lucia rebounded from their opening 5-0 loss to Haiti to salvage a nil-all draw with Guatemala in their second Group C match



Keitonya Skepple

at the same venue on Thursday.

Guatemala, who earned a one-nil victory over the Cayman Islands in their opening game, missed a chance to score against St. Lucia when Emery Aguilar was unable to convert a penalty kick in the 38th minute.

Group C leaders Haiti claimed their third win in as many games with a 3-0 victory against the Cayman Islands on Saturday.

The final round of matches in Group C will take place on Monday. St. Lucia will take on the Cayman Islands, and Haiti will clash with Guatemala.

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Jamaica beat Leewards to win CG United Women's Super50 Cup



Jamaica was crowned winners of the CG United Women's Super50 Cup following the completion of the final round in St Vincent on Saturday.

The Jamaicans, who started the final round in fifth place with nine points, trounced the winless Leeward Islands by eight wickets at the Sion Hill playing field.

Led by decent contributions from their middle order, the Leeward Islands posted 146 in 37.4 overs after electing to bat first.

Reniece Boyce made 37, Jahzara Claxton scored 29, Amanda Awards 27 and Shawnisha Hector chipped in with 17, to help their side post a competitive total.

Chedean Nation accounted for the wickets of Boyce, Edwards and Hector, on her way to claiming four for 23 from her eight overs. Celina Whyte claimed two for 19 and Stafanie Taylor captured two for 34.

The result allows the Jamaicans to snatch the title with a total of 21 points, while the Windward Islands and Guyana finished tied on 20 points.

Trinidad and Tobago, winners in 2025, ended in fourth place with 19 points, followed by Barbados with 13 points, and Leeward, who lost all three

matches finished in the cellar with seven points.

The Windward Islands Women, who had won their first two matches, missed out on the title, after crashing to a six-wicket loss to Guyana in their final match at Park Hill Playing field.

The Windwards Women produced a below par effort with the bat on their way to being bowled out for 97 in 35 overs. Earnisha Fontaine hit the top-score of 32, Jannillea Glasgow made 22 and Afy Fletcher added 21, but no other batter made it into double digits.

Their efforts were needed after Ashmini Munisar grabbed two early wickets to help reduce the Windwards to 41 for four.

Glasgow and Fontaine tried to rebuild the innings during a 48-run partnership for the fifth wicket, but once Munisar bowled the former, the Windwards lost their last six wickets for eight runs.

Munisar finished with four for 21, Mandy Mangru took two for 19, and Kaysia Schultz claimed two for 25.

Led by captain Shemaine Campbelle, Guyana then cruised to 100 for four in 28 overs to record a comfortable victory.

The Guyanese slipped to 49 for three following the early losses of Realean-

na Grimmond, Mangru and Laurene Williams.

Campbelle came to her side's rescue in an unbeaten knock of 26, and along with Shabika Gajnabi who made 14 and Sheneta Grimmond, who made nine not out, carried Guyana to their second win of the tournament.

Trinidad and Tobago Women stepped up to the plate with the bat to defeat Barbados Women by five wickets via the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method at Cumberland Playing Field.

Barbados Women posted the second highest total of the competition of 152 for nine, despite the match being reduced to 48 overs.

Captain Aaliyah Alleyne led the way with 43, Trishan Holder made 32, and Asabi Callender contributed 22. Alleyne and Holder combined to add 68 runs for the fifth wicket, which helped Barbados rally from 56 for four to 124 for four.

Anisa Mohammed and Nadia Mohammed shared seven wickets between them to bring T&T back in the match and help restrict their opponents.

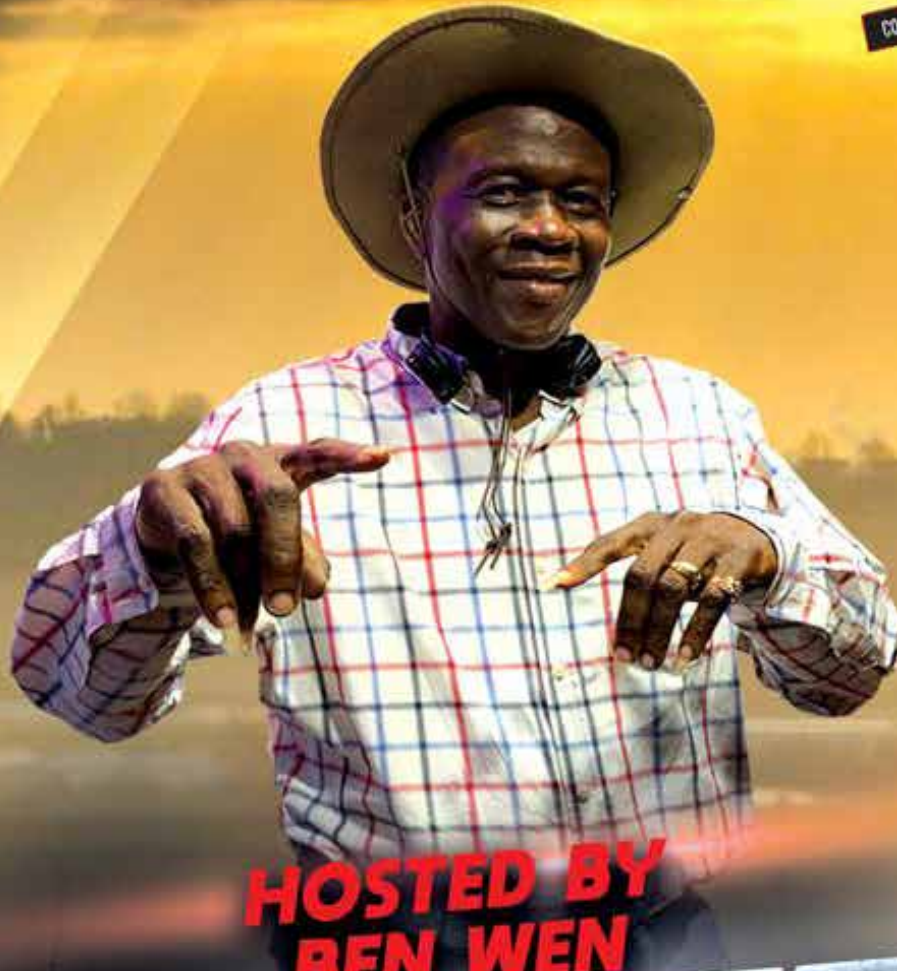
Anisa was the best bowler with four for 26 and she received good support from Nadia, who took three for 24.

Following the early loss of Samara Ramnath for four, opener Djenaba Joseph and Shunelle Sawh added 71 runs for the second wicket to put T&T in control at 76 for one.

Joseph, who made 35 and Shaw, who scored 34, then fell in quick succession to leave Guyana 85 for three and the game in the balance.

Anisa Mohammed (14), Britney Cooper (12), and Lee-Ann Kirby, who scored an unbeaten 12, made crucial contributions to see T&T to 133 for five in 38.4 overs, after the total was revised and they were given 41 overs to complete the chase.

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Windies edge South Africa to claim consolation win in T20 finale

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Shimron Hetmyer smashed an unbeaten 48 in 22 balls to help West Indies to a six-run DLS victory over hosts South Africa in a Twenty20 International (T20I) reduced to 10 overs per side at The Wanderers in Johannesburg on Saturday.

South Africa, who won the first two games, had already wrapped up the three-match series going into the final fixture on Saturday, when the threat of lightning on the Highveld shortened the contest.

South Africa won the toss and sent the tourists into bat for the third time in the series, with Hetmyer and opener Shai Hope, who also slammed 48 from 25 balls, helping the West Indies to 114 for three in their 10 overs. Rovman

Powell chipped in with 13 from seven balls, including two sixes.

Lightning delayed the start of play by 75 minutes and the West Indies reached 66 for one after the six-over Power Play when lightning returned and play was suspended.

The target for the home side was adjusted to 125 via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, but the West Indies applied early pressure through their left-arm spinners to restrict South Africa to 118 for six to snatch victory.

Gudakesh Motie with three for 17 and Akeal Hosein, who claimed one for 25, put the home side on the back foot and as the rate grew, the South Africans lost wickets at regular intervals.

South Africa needed 16 off the last

over from Shamar Joseph, who bowled a succession of yorkers to close out the game for the West Indies.

Quinton de Kock topscored for South Africa with 28 off 14 balls. Jason Smith hit 26 off 10 balls, Dewald Brevis and George Linde each made 17, and Ryan Rickelton chipped in with 15.

Both countries now head to the T20 World Cup where the West Indies start against Scotland on February 7, while South Africa's first match is against Canada on February 9.

The West Indies team, which left South Africa on Sunday, were slated to arrive in India on Monday. The West Indies will take on Afghanistan in a World Cup warm-up game in Bengaluru on Wednesday.



West Indies batsman Shimron Hetmyer goes for a big shot during the third T20 International against South Africa at The Wanderers in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Saturday, January 31, 2026. (AP)

Green City FC produced one of the surprising results of the season by ending the unbeaten run of leaders Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday night.

Green City FC claimed their fourth win in 13 matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory against the Jennings Grenades in the last game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Carllon Warner scored both goals in the first half with strikes in the 14th and 42nd minutes.

Green City FC moves on to 15 points, while the Jennings Grenades remain at the top of the Premier League with 32 points after suffering their first defeat

in 13 matches.

Garden Stars and the Attacking Saints recorded wins in the other two matches on Saturday.

Garden Stars consolidated their position in sixth place by securing their fifth win in 13 matches with a 2-1 victory against John Hughes in Saturday's second game.

Nadre Thomas scored two late goals with conversions in the 83rd minute and the fifth minute of added time to snatch victory for Garden Stars after Dashawn Plunkett's strike in the 13th minute gave John Hughes a one-nil lead at halftime.

The result allows Garden Stars to advance to 19 points, while John Hughes FC remains third from the bottom of

the standings with 10 points after losing for the ninth time in 13 matches.

Rick Gordon scored twice as the Attacking Saints notched up their fourth win in 13 matches with a 3-0 victory against struggling Ottos Rangers in Saturday's opening game.

Gordon scored his first goal in the 20th minute to give the Attacking Saints a one-nil lead at halftime. He got his second with a 74th-minute conversion after teammate Obafami Poyotte scored with a strike in the 71st minute.

The Attacking Saints moved on to 13 points, while the Ottos Rangers remain second from the bottom of the standings with four points after losing for the 11th time in 13 matches.



A starting XI of the Green City football team