

Pringle's Leadership Costs The UPP The Election

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Graduating class of the GRACE elderly care programme pose for family photo

Pringle's Leadership Costs The UPP The Election

The issue surrounding the removal of the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle, from the joint session of parliament meeting last Tuesday, was the subject of much discussion on Saturday's *Browne and Browne* show on the Point Broadcasting Network (PBN).

Prime Minister Gaston Browne went to lengths to explain why it was not proper for the Opposition Leader to be seated at the joint session, when he never took the oath of allegiance as a member of the House of Representatives following the April 30 general elections.

The prime minister recalled that when the swearing ceremony was held in early May, both Pringle and the member for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, were noticeably absent.

"Under those circumstances, the Opposition Leader needed to wait for another 'regular meeting' of the House of Representatives for the oath to be administered, but this could not be done at a joint sitting of the parliament, as this runs contrary to the Constitution.

Additionally, the prime minister again explained that both the President of the Senate, Alincia Williams-Grant and Speaker of the House, Osbert Frederick had called Pringle aside prior to the start of the meeting to explain to him that he could not be seated as he had not taken the oath as a member of the lower house.

Despite these admonition, Pringle proceeded to take a sit among the parliamentarians and he was subsequently asked to remove himself from the Chambers. In an act of solidarity, the opposition senators walked out of the sitting as well.

PM Browne takes the view that this



Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the *Browne and Browne* show

action puts the Pringle's leadership qualities in question, as in his view, the opposition leader ought to have urged his senators to return as they were properly sworn in and already seated.

"Pringle has the propensity to gaslight the public and then to play victim. I believe the people are aware

of this and it is not working. He is not learning. He just doesn't get it. The time has now come for Pringle, a three-time leader of the opposition, to show some level of maturity and leadership; that is what the people are demanding. In fact, they (the UPP) got thrashing in the last general elections because of his lack of leadership," Browne declared.

He added that for the Opposition Leader to start a new parliamentary session with this type of behavior, which did not work in the last parliament or the previous one, shows that he still has much to learn. "Why would he expect that this behavior will now work in a third term," PM Browne queried.



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CHOGM 2026 Preparations Advance As Task Force Reviews Key Deliverables



E.P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs

The National Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) Task Force responsible for coordinating the hosting of the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) convened Friday under the chairmanship of the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration, to review progress across all work streams and to finalise preparations for several major milestones in the lead-up to the Summit.

Minister Greene commended members of the Task Force for their contin-

ued commitment and emphasised the importance of maintaining momentum as Antigua and Barbuda enters the final five months before welcoming leaders, delegates, and stakeholders from across the Commonwealth.

The meeting received updates on accreditation, accommodation, security, transportation, communications, protocol, and forum preparations. Members were advised that accreditation training for officers is scheduled to commence in June, paving the way for the launch of the accreditation process. The accommodation team reported that there has been engagement with 48 countries to date and over 800 rooms have been secured.

A major focus of the meeting was the upcoming Commonwealth recce, scheduled for 7th to 13th June 2026, which will assess venues and logistical arrangements across Antigua and Barbuda. The exercise will provide an important opportunity to showcase the country's readiness, culture, heritage, environmental sustainability initiatives, and hospitality offerings.

The Task Force also reviewed the ongoing implementation of the "Road to CHOGM" public awareness campaign, which is designed to educate and engage citizens and the wider diaspora on Antigua and Barbuda's preparations to host the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government

Meeting. Members discussed plans to expand outreach efforts in the coming months, including increased media engagement, stakeholder participation, and public education initiatives to ensure that all sectors of society are informed of the opportunities and benefits associated with the high-level event. The Volunteer Programme, scheduled to launch in June, was also highlighted as a key mechanism for fostering national involvement and strengthening the country's readiness to welcome Commonwealth leaders and delegates.

Updates from the security and transportation teams confirmed continued collaboration with local, regional, and international partners to ensure the safe and efficient movement of delegates and dignitaries. Work is also progressing on risk management planning, tabletop exercises, and venue-specific security assessments.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the Government's commitment to hosting a world-class CHOGM that reflects Antigua and Barbuda's capacity, professionalism, and leadership within the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 1st to 4th November 2026 under the theme "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth."



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Plastic Bottle-Cap Initiative Off To A Wonderful Start



The initiative to use recycled plastic bottle caps to mount a mural depicting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 26 logo, got off to an exciting start on Saturday.

Space has been provided by the Ministry of Creative Industries to mount the mural on the northern wall of the Antigua Recreation Grounds facing Old Parham Road.

The initiative forms part of the outreach of the National Task Force for CHOGM 26 and it incorporates the involvement of several community organisations,

most notably, the environmental activist group, Good Humans 268.

Head of the National Task Force and Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene welcomed the launch of the initiative and especially the involvement of groups such as the Girl Guides, the Wings Sports Club and the Antigua and Barbuda China Association, an association that comprises students who have studied in China.

“We are here today, to place the first set of caps on this historic mural which is an indication of our national ambition of involving



our young people at every level. So as we set about to populate this mural with the bottle caps which will stand for posterity, we are happy to know that young people and our artistic community are part of what we are proposing for



Antigua and Barbuda’s hosting of CHOGM 2026,” he stated.

Minister Greene again commended Chaneil Imhoff, who won the competition to design a logo, for her creativity in producing such an inspiring Logo.

He also thanked the several corporate entities that contributed to the success of the venture.

Joshuanette Francis of Good Humans 268 said her organization has been collecting discarded plastic bottles and bottle caps and they came up with the idea to create the Antigua and Barbuda National Flag using discarded bottle caps. From the success of that venture, the CHOGM Outreach coordinator, Brianna Anthony made contact with the group to partner to undertake the mural initiative.

Over the next few days, arrangements are being made for other prominent members of the society to take part in the initiative by placing bottle caps as part of the mural’s design.

The St. John’s Development Corporation, Ambassador Patrice Luke and Manna Trading Company, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Creative Industries have contributed to the success of the venture.



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LIAT (2020) Limited and Air Caraïbes Sign Interline Agreement to Expand Caribbean Travel Connectivity



LIAT (2020) Limited (Liat Air) and Air Caraïbes have announced the signing of an interline agreement that will allow passengers of both airlines to travel seamlessly across the carriers' combined networks on a single ticket and a single point of purchase.

The agreement combines Liat Air's extensive intra-Caribbean network, connecting the Eastern Caribbean islands, Guyana, Jamaica Dominican Republic, Trinidad, Barbados and the wider region from its hub at V.C. Bird International Airport in Antigua, with Air Caraïbes' regional services from Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana, and its long-haul connection between the Caribbean and Paris-Orly.

Under the interline, customers will be able to book itineraries that combine flights operated by both airlines through travel agents and global distribution systems, with baggage checked through to their final destination. The arrangement removes the need for travellers to purchase separate tickets, re-check luggage, or pay duplicate fees when transferring between the two carriers.

"This agreement is an important step in delivering the kind of regional connectivity Caribbean travellers, tourism

operators and businesses have been asking for," said Hafsah Abdulsalam, CEO, LIAT (2020) Limited. "By linking our networks with Air Caraïbes, we are making it significantly easier to move between the English-, French- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, and to connect from any of our island destinations onward to Europe through Paris. It is a meaningful expansion of what a ticket on Liat Air can take you to.

"Travelling across the Caribbean should never mean navigating fragmented journeys or unnecessary complexity. Our ambition is simple: to bring territories closer together and make travel smoother for those who live, work, or travel across the region," said Hugues Heddebault, Commercial Director of Air Caraïbes. "This partnership with Liat Air makes it easier to connect destinations across the Caribbean and provides more seamless access to Paris and Europe via our hubs in Pointe-à-Pitre and Fort-de-France. Beyond a commercial agreement, it reflects a strong conviction: a better-connected Caribbean is a more open, more accessible, and more dynamic Caribbean."

Customer benefits of the interline include:

- A single ticket and itinerary covering travel on both Liat Air and Air Caraïbes.
- Through-checked baggage from origin to final destination.
- Access to a broader Caribbean network spanning the English-, French- and Dutch speaking islands.
- Onward connections between the Caribbean and Paris-Orly via Air Caraïbes' long-haul services from Pointe-à-Pitre and Fort-de-France.
- Coordinated booking and ticketing through travel agents and global distribution systems.

Interline tickets will be available for sale through travel agents and authorised distribution channels with effect from 1st June 2026.

Both airlines highlighted the agreement's contribution to regional tourism and economic integration. By improving the ease and affordability of inter-island travel and providing direct access to European source markets, the partnership is expected to support increased visitor arrivals, business travel and the movement of Caribbean diaspora communities throughout the region.



Antigua and Barbuda Delegation Concludes Regional Climate Finance Workshop in Barbados

A four-member delegation from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has successfully concluded participation in the two-day workshop “**Prosperity on Our Terms: A Caribbean Agenda for Climate Finance Access and Addressing Loss and Damage,**” held recently at the Hilton Barbados Resort, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Convened by the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Vulnerable Twenty Group (CVF-V20) under the presidency of Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados, the workshop brought together representatives from nine Caribbean V20 member states and the broader CARICOM community to advance the region’s access to climate and disaster risk finance.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation comprised:

- **Gita Nicholas**, Department of Environment, Ministry of Health and the Environment
- **Arry Simon**, Department of Environment, Ministry of Health and the Environment
- **Carlton Knight**, Ministry of Finance, Corporate Governance and Public-Private Partnerships
- **Sheneé Cornelius**, Ministry of Finance, Corporate Governance and Public-Private Partnerships

Over two days, the delegation engaged substantive technical sessions covering the principal climate finance mechanisms under active development within the CVF-V20. Session one provided a comprehensive overview of the post-2025 climate finance landscape and the CVF-V20 Climate Prosperity Agenda, contextualising the structural financing challenges facing Small Island Developing States.

Subsequent sessions offered a detailed walk-through of the **Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Compact**, a four-pillar structural financing ini-



Left to right: Arry Simon, Gita Nicholas, Carlton Knight, Sheneé Cornelius.

tiative designed to address the longer-term economic vulnerabilities of climate exposed nations, and the **CVF-V20 Lifeline Fund**, presented by former Central Bank Governor of Trinidad and Tobago Jwala Rambaran, which aims to provide rapid, trigger-based liquidity support to member countries immediately following a major climate event.

The delegation also participated in a dedicated session on **Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI)**, led by Isaac Anthony, Chief Executive Officer of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF SPC), which examined coverage trends, basis risk, and insurance solutions for micro and small enterprises. Sessions on Loss and Damage finance, including an introduction to the **Global Shield against Climate Risks** and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, and on mobilising private capital through blended finance and carbon market access completed the technical programme.

The workshop also covered the establishment of a **Regional Adaptation Training Hub for the Caribbean**, a planned initiative forming part of the USD \$5.3 million GEF-UNIDO-V20

Adaptation Support Program, which will improve Caribbean access to affordable climate adaptation technologies and services.

On the afternoon of 29 May, the delegation participated in a field visit to coastal and fisheries sites across Barbados under the Roofs to Reefs Programme. Stops included the Barbados Fisheries Division in Bridgetown, Paynes Bay and Folkstone marine reserve in St. James, and the fishing village of Six Men’s in Saint Peter. The visit offered direct exposure to community-based fisheries management, coastal biodiversity conservation, and marine ecosystem protection, all areas of direct relevance to Antigua and Barbuda’s own coastal and blue economy priorities.

The delegation departed with a clearer understanding of the financing instruments and multilateral mechanisms available to Antigua and Barbuda as the country continues to strengthen its climate resilience architecture. Antigua and Barbuda was one of nine Caribbean nations represented at the workshop, reinforcing the region’s collective engagement with the global climate finance agenda.

Senator O'Donoghue Delivers Charge To GRACE Programme Graduates,



Senator Angelica O'Donoghue delivered the charge to thirteen graduates of the Government's Residential Assistance Care for the Elderly and Eligible (GRACE) Programme, encouraging them to become champions of dignity, compassion and service as they embark on careers caring for some of Antigua and Barbuda's most vulnerable citizens.

The graduation ceremony, held at the Zion Church of God under the theme "Serving with Dignity," honoured members of the GRACE Programme Class of 2025 who successfully completed their training and are now equipped to provide professional care and support to elderly persons and adults living with physical disabilities.

Delivering remarks on behalf of Hon. Rawdon Turner, Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Senator O'Donoghue conveyed Minister Turner's congratulations and best wishes to each graduate and greetings from the Ministry's leadership. Minister Turner was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, while Minister of State Hon. Kiz Johnson was away on government business.

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In her address, Senator O'Donoghue challenged the graduates to view caregiving as more than a profession.

“You are entering a profession where the greatest gift you can offer is not merely physical assistance, but dignity, companionship and respect. Every act of care, every conversation, every moment of patience reminds someone that they matter. Through your service, you become guardians of dignity and ambassadors of compassion.”

She reminded graduates that the true measure of a society lies in how it treats its most vulnerable citizens and encouraged them to carry forward the values of empathy, respect and excellence in service.

The ceremony was chaired by Ms. Avril Cox, while prayer and the National Anthem were led by Mrs. Marsha Pharaoh, Deputy Director of the Family and Social Services Division. Opening remarks were delivered by Mrs. Amira Henry, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation.

Mrs. Henry highlighted the importance of the GRACE Programme, which provides support to elderly persons and adults living with disabilities, particularly those who are vulnerable or living alone. She noted that the programme helps clients remain in the comfort of their homes while preserving their dignity, independence and quality of life.






REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

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The Antigua and Barbuda Festival Commission (ABFC) hereby invites qualified and reputable service Providers to submit quotations for the provision of event production services for Antigua Carnival 2026.

Interested companies should include the following in their quotation submission:

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For detailed technical specifications, please email us to request the complete RFQ documentation. All quotations must be submitted electronically to info.nof@ab.gov.ag by the deadline of **Friday, June 12, 2026**. Please note that late submissions may not be considered.



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Cuba Continues to Defy the Odds: Announces New Lung Cancer Vaccine

Despite the stifling effect of 60-plus years of a US economic and financial blockade of Cuba and the restriction of all oil shipments to the island since January, the people of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean territory continue to defy all odds.

The Cuban Embassy in St. John's has just announced that Cuba has developed a second vaccine to fight lung cancer, one of the leading causes of death in many countries.

It said VAXIRA is a therapeutic lung cancer vaccine that works to help the immune system to destroy cancer cells. It has already shown major improvements in survival rates for lung cancer patients. The US blockade bans people in the US from accessing the vaccine.

In 2011, Cuba developed CIMA-vax-EGF the world's first and only approved lung cancer vaccine. More than 5,000 people across the world have been treated with the vaccine. It costs just \$1 to manufacture.

Thanks to Cuba's free, universal healthcare system and medical advances like lung cancer vaccines, lung cancer survival rates are 85% in provinces in Cuba. In the United States, they are just 29%, because lung cancer treatment costs \$200,000-\$400,000+ where accessible.

After 66 years under U.S. blockade, Cuba continues to make health breakthroughs that benefit the world. This principle of putting people before

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AT&LU Moves To Attract Younger Members



The Antigua Trades and Labour Union says it has launched a series of youth-focused initiatives as it seeks to rebuild its youth arm.

AT&LU President, Bernard deNully said the mission to rebuild the youth arm is being spearheaded with events such as the De Labour Social where the membership and supporters come together in unity and oneness.

“After concluding a successful DJ competition for our De Labour Mix event for Labour Day Weekend, the momentum carried on to our Karaoke Competition on Friday Night. Events such as these will continue during the course of the year,” deNully reported.

The AT&LU is congratulating the winners of its 1st ever Karaoke Competition in De Labour Social.

Winner: Suzetta Hamilton - Ministry of Health

1st Runner Up: Peetron Thomas - National Public Library

2nd Runner Up: Shauna Chambers - Ministry of Tourism

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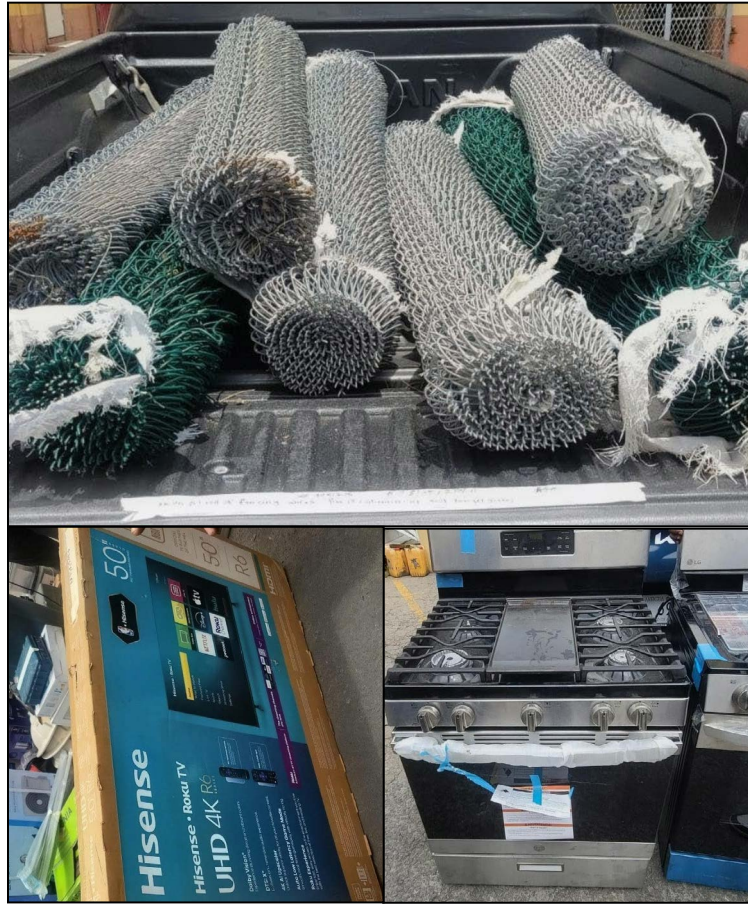


Police Recover Large Cache of Suspected Stolen Items

A Fort Road resident is currently in police custody assisting investigators after police recovered a large cache of suspected stolen property during the execution of a search warrant at his home on Sunday morning.

Around 6:30 a.m. on May 31, officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Task Force executed a search warrant at a property in the Fort Road area and discovered a significant quantity of electronic equipment, household appliances, hardware supplies, construction materials, power tools, generators, air-conditioning units, cellular phones, and other valuable items.

Among the items recovered were televisions, stoves, microwave ovens, blenders, pressure cookers, rice cookers, ceiling fans, air fryers, generators, compressors, chain saws, drills, sanders, weed trimmers, water pumps, air-conditioning



units, fencing wire, electrical supplies, bathroom fixtures, projectors, tool kits, and several cellular phones.

The occupant of the property was arrested on suspicion of Larceny and Receiving and was transported to the St.

John's Police Station along with the recovered items.

Police are now appealing to members of the public who may have recently reported items stolen from their homes, businesses, construction sites, or storage facilities to contact the Criminal Investigations Department.

Individuals who believe any of the recovered property may belong to them are encouraged to visit the CID and provide proof of ownership to assist investigators with the identification process.

The police are continuing investigations into the matter and are working to determine the origins of the recovered items and whether they may be linked to a number of reported larcenies and burglaries across the island.

Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/14 or call Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Mrs. JELLETTE RALPH
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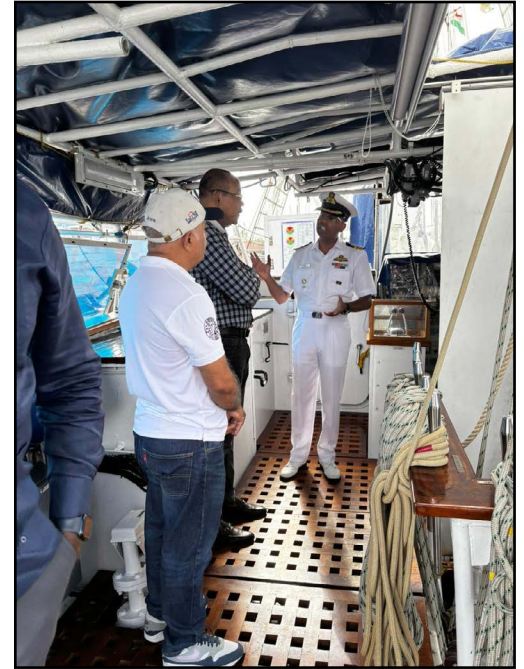
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Indian Training Ship Departs St. John's Harbour

Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Sunday paid an early morning visit to the Indian training vessel, INS Sudarshini, hours before the vessel sailed out of the St. John's Harbour after a 5-day visit.

PM Browne met with Captain Ravikanth Nandoori and other officers of the vessel which stopped at Antigua and Barbuda after 19 days at sea crossing the Atlantic. From St. John's, the vessel travels to Norfolk, Virginia, USA and then to New York.

During its visit, other top government officials, including the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene, Brig. Telbert Benjamin of the ABDF and others paid courtesy calls on the officers and crew of the INS Sudarshini.



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Aadaiyah Freeland of Generation X Football Club receives the Golden Boot Award in the Under-7 Division at the ACB Caribbean Junior Premier League Annual Awards Ceremony, celebrating outstanding performance, hard work, and sportsmanship.

The award was presented by Shand Merchant, Marketing Manager at Flow, the league's official telecommunications sponsor, who represented the company at the event.



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Not Charity, But Repair: A Response to Pope Leo's Slavery Apology



By Sir Ronald Sanders

Signed on 15 May 2026 and released on 25 May 2026, Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, marks a significant moment in the long reckoning with slavery. It contains the clearest papal acknowledgment to date of the Holy See's role in legitimising the institution and of its failure to condemn it for centuries.

For the Caribbean and Latin America, that acknowledgment has special force. Roman Catholicism did not merely accompany conquest and plantation society in this region; it helped shape the moral language through which empire, hierarchy, and racial domination were too often made to appear lawful and natural.

That is why, as a precocious 11-year-old, I parted company with the Catholic Church when an Irish priest told me that, when I grew up, I would understand the economics of the Church. I had asked why pews at the front, bearing the names of rich white families, were mostly empty while many poor, mostly Black members of the congregation had to stand at the back. That

early experience revealed the wider social order that many in our region inherited: race and class ordered not only on the plantation, but also in the pews.

Andrew S. Curran's recent book, *Biography of a Dangerous Idea*, released in February 2026, helps explain why such arrangements could endure for so long. Curran's central thesis is that race was not a natural fact or biological truth, but an invention shaped in the Enlightenment, as European thinkers fashioned rigid hierarchies of human difference to justify slavery, empire, and inequality. If Pope Leo has now acknowledged the Church's complicity in legitimising slavery, Curran helps us understand the intellectual design that gave that complicity wider force: the dangerous idea that some human beings were naturally meant to command while others were naturally meant to serve.

If Curran explains the idea, Dr Eric Williams explains the system. In *Capitalism and Slavery*, first published in 1944, Williams argued that slavery was central to the rise of British capitalism and that abolition owed much to changing economic interests. A West Indian to the core, he produced a thesis that remains foundational in the Caribbean: slavery was not a regrettable side note to modern development; it was one of its engines. The wealth extracted from enslaved Africans and from plantation societies in the Caribbean helped finance a wider Atlantic economy from which European powers benefited disproportionately.

Read together, Williams and Curran provide a compelling framework for understanding the deeper meaning of Pope Leo's apology. Williams explains how slavery generated capital; Curran shows how race provided legitimacy. Church, commerce, law, and pseudo-science did not operate in separate

worlds. They converged in the making of an Atlantic order in which African suffering could be rationalised, normalised, and exploited.

That is why Pope Leo's apology, historic and courageous though it is, cannot be the end of the matter. In *Magnifica Humanitas*, he speaks of forgiveness, sorrow, and restorative justice, but he stops short of explicitly endorsing reparations. In the nations of the Western Hemisphere, where the legacy of slavery remains visible in unequal development, racial hierarchy, educational disparity, land inequality, and enduring social exclusion, apology without commitment to help repair remains politically unsatisfactory.

The international context is shifting as well. On 25 March 2026, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution that recognises the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialised chattel enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity. Led by Ghana and backed by an overwhelming majority of African, Latin American, and Caribbean states, the resolution calls for reparations as a concrete step towards remedying these historical wrongs and for much greater attention to justice, dignity, and healing for Africans and their descendants. It does not create new law, but it does send a clear political and moral signal: slavery is not just a closed chapter in history; its consequences still shape lives and opportunities today.

Yet as soon as the discussion turns from memory to reparations, resistance hardens across parts of Europe and North America. In Britain, that unease is visible in the continuing debate over whether the Anglican Church should endorse and finance reparative measures for its historical links to slavery. Critics continue to resist the idea that present-day institutions bear obligations flowing from historical

crimes. The pattern is by now familiar: institutions are often prepared to research slavery, regret slavery, and condemn slavery; however, they become markedly less comfortable when justice requires structured commitments to repair.

It need not take the form of giant cheques. Sincere apologies, honestly naming the wrong, matter. But they must be matched by long-term social and economic programmes through which those who profited from slavery commit real resources to help lift up the societies that slavery impoverished and scarred with racism. This is not an idea that should inspire fear. In its genuine implementation, reparative justice can help make the world a wealthier, fairer, and more human place by affirming the dignity of all.

This is especially important at a moment when people of African descent have risen across the Caribbean in government, commerce, and civil society. In Latin America, North America, and Europe, African-descendant communities are also participating more forcefully and more effectively in public policy, diplomacy, academia, activism, and culture. In that context, while expressions of remorse are important, the implementation of systems to ensure equality, equity, respect, and an end to racial discrimination is crucial.

Pope Leo's apology matters because moral acknowledgment matters. But the descendants of enslaved people do not live by acknowledgment alone. History also teaches that words, however sincere, do not by themselves repair inequality, exclusion, or inherited disadvantage. If the international community is sincere in confronting slavery and its consequences, remembrance must be matched by practical commitments to justice, opportunity, dignity, and an end to racial discrimination. Reparative justice is not about revenge for the past. It is about responsibility for the future.

Descendants of African slaves are not asking for charity from nations whose wealth was built, in part, on slavery

and racism; they are asking for practical repair and a better deal now and in the future.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's

da's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also Chancellor of the University of Guyana. The views expressed are entirely his own).



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On the Horizon of Peace: Nations Must Dare to Rise!



By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E Pilgrim

The genesis of my thoughts for this article emerged while driving along the highway to V.C. Bird International Airport and pulling aside on the grassy enclave close to the protective fence to safely watch, for a couple of hours, various airplanes landing and taking off. The increasing roar of the aircraft engines gripped my attention, signaling the readiness of each plane for flight. The movements were satisfying to observe, but they also placed me in a metaphorical frame of mind as it relates to a country's strategic development plans.

Some aircraft accelerated slowly before rising confidently into the skies. Others landed with precision, discipline and remarkable coordination. Whether large or small, each aircraft required the same essential ingredients for success: direction, organization, stability, confidence and lift. Nations are not very different.

Across the Caribbean, a quiet but important philosophical shift is beginning to emerge. Increasingly, regional leaders are recognizing that the future prosperity of small states will not be determined solely by natural resources, geography or historical circumstance, but by disciplined governance,

strategic innovation, national confidence and social stability.

At the center of this thinking is a simple but transformative proposition: even countries with limited land mass and finite resources can become highly successful societies if they deliberately invest in people, institutions, technology, infrastructure and peace.

Indeed, peace itself may be one of the greatest economic assets any nation can possess.

Peace creates predictability. Predictability encourages investment. Investment creates jobs, innovation and opportunity. Peaceful societies also tend to strengthen education, improve healthcare outcomes, reduce crime, encourage tourism and create the psychological stability necessary for entrepreneurship and long-term planning.

In many respects, development and peace are inseparable companions.

History repeatedly demonstrates that nations advancing socially and economically are often those that successfully cultivate order, discipline, tolerance and institutional stability. Conversely, societies overwhelmed by conflict, instability, polarization and violence frequently struggle to sustain meaningful growth. This is especially relevant for small island developing states.

The Caribbean cannot compete globally through military power or sheer population size. Our advantage must come instead through strategic intelligence, education, efficiency, innovation, diplomacy and social cohesion. In short, we must become societies where peace itself becomes a development strategy.

Prime Minister, Hon. Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda has increasingly articulated a vision of Antigua and Barbuda evolving into what may

be described as a "Lifestyle Superpower." That vision extends beyond economic statistics. It speaks to creating a society where citizens enjoy security, opportunity, modern infrastructure, quality healthcare, housing access, technological advancement and an improved standard of living.

This broader developmental thinking is also visible elsewhere throughout the region.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados has consistently advocated for climate resilience, institutional modernization and educational reform while emphasizing the importance of international cooperation and social protection. President Irfaan Ali of Guyana has promoted economic diversification, infrastructure expansion and regional integration as essential pillars for long-term national advancement.

In Jamaica, Prime Minister Andrew Holness has emphasized fiscal discipline, technology, productivity and public sector modernization as pathways toward sustainable growth. Likewise, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has repeatedly highlighted the importance of diversification, education, entrepreneurship and institutional modernization in preparing Trinidad and Tobago for a future beyond traditional energy dependence.

Though each leader approaches development differently, there is an emerging regional consensus that modernization requires more than economic policy alone. It requires national discipline, social stability and long-term strategic thinking.

The philosophical roots of these ideas stretch far back into history.

Aristotle observed that "the state comes into existence for the sake of life and continues for the sake of the

good life.” That principle remains profoundly relevant to modern development. Nations must not merely survive; they must create conditions in which citizens can flourish with dignity, security and opportunity.

The Caribbean’s own intellectual tradition also reinforces this thinking. Eric Williams famously declared that “the future of our nation is in our schoolbags.” His words captured a timeless truth: education, discipline and knowledge remain among the greatest strategic resources any developing society can possess.

Modern prosperity increasingly belongs not necessarily to the largest nations, but to the most adaptive and organized ones.

Across the region, investments in airports, seaports, digital infrastructure, renewable energy and educational modernization are already demonstrating how strategic planning can strengthen national competitiveness.

This means Caribbean societies must now focus simultaneously on several critical development pillars:

- strengthening education and technical training;
- modernizing public administration;
- expanding digital infrastructure;
- encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation;
- developing renewable energy;
- strengthening democratic institutions;
- preserving environmental sustainability
- and protecting social peace.

Importantly, development must also remain inclusive. An advanced society must create both a strong social safety net for vulnerable groups as well as genuine pathways for opportunity and upward mobility. Economic growth that benefits only a small segment of society eventually weakens national unity and social peace.

Young people must see opportunity ahead of them through apprenticeships, entrepreneurship programmes, coding academies and skills training. Workers must feel dignity in labor. Equally important, our aging citizens must experience the comfort of lifestyle transitioning with dignity, security and pride. They should never be viewed as burdens upon society, but rather as repositories of generational wisdom, experience and cultural memory that can continue to guide national development.

Peace is not merely the absence of violence; it is the presence of fairness, opportunity, stability, inclusion and hope.

The Caribbean already possesses enormous advantages:

- strategic maritime positioning;
- globally recognized tourism brands;
- democratic traditions;
- strong diaspora networks;
- rich cultural industries;
- and extraordinary human creativity.

Combined with disciplined governance and strategic planning, these advantages can become catalysts for transformational growth.

But this requires confidence.

Too often, developing societies unconsciously limit themselves by constantly emphasizing vulnerability and dependence. Yet some of the world’s most successful economies emerged not because they possessed unlimited resources, but because they possessed clarity of purpose and the courage to adapt.

Small does not mean weak. Limited resources do not mean limited destiny.

For the Caribbean, standing still is no longer an option. The future will increasingly reward societies that are peaceful, educated, technologically integrated, environmentally resilient and institutionally disciplined. Those willing to modernize intelligently while preserving sovereignty and cultural identity will be best positioned to succeed.

As I watched those aircraft rise steadily into the evening sky near the airport fence, one thought remained firmly with me: before any nation can truly ascend, it must first generate the internal momentum necessary for lift.

For nations, as with aircraft, lift is never accidental; it is created through preparation, discipline, peace and courage.

The views expressed are entirely the opinion of the author and does not represent any institution.

Dr. Clarence E Pilgrim is an advocate for International Peace, Transformational leadership and strategic development.



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Scrub Life Cares women and Girls' Health Expo turns 5!



The atmosphere was filled with empowerment, education, and celebration as the annual Scrub Life Cares Women and Girls Expo proudly marked its fifth anniversary on Friday, May 23rd, 2026. The highly anticipated event brought together women, girls, families, health professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, and advocates for a day dedicated to wellness, self-development, and community engagement.

Founded by public health professional Tanya Ambrose, the expo has steadily grown into one of the island's most impactful community-centered initiatives. Over the years, the event has become a safe and inspiring space at the Cana Moravian Church grounds, where conversations about women's health, mental wellness, self-care, and empowerment are openly and meaningfully encouraged.

This year's milestones event reflected months of dedication and teamwork as Ambrose and her committed team worked coherently behind the scenes to ensure every detail was executed successfully. From coordinating vendors and presenters to organizing educational sessions and family-friendly activities, the collective effort was evident throughout the day's proceedings.

Antigua. News spoke with one member: "I am truly amazed at how this event has grown over the years, seeing the community come together each year



reminds us why this work is so important."

Attendees were treated to goodie bags upon entry, straight from the Scrub Life Cares pantry, filled with products to support women and girls with their menstrual health and skin care.

The event offered attendees an engaging and informative experience, featuring a wide variety of vendors showcasing health products, wellness services, and self-care essentials. Health education remained a major focus of the expo, with booths and presentations offering valuable information on women's health, nutrition, menstrual health, preventative care, and overall well-being.

The event also highlighted the importance of mental health and emotional wellness. Interactive discussions and resources encouraged attendees to prioritize self-care while also addressing the realities many women and young girls face daily. Special attention was given to neurodivergent individuals and families, creating an inclusive environment that promoted understanding, awareness, and support.

One of the standout vendors at Scrub Life Cares Women and Girls Expo 2026



was "She Grows," which quickly became a hotspot for attendees throughout the day. Their booth attracted women and girls eager to learn about natural remedies, seed planting, and the benefits of medicinal bushes and herbs that support menstrual health and overall feminine wellness. She added a unique and refreshing dimension to the event by blending health education, agriculture, and women's wellness into one empowering experience.

A dedicated maternal and paternal corner provided guidance and resources for parents and expecting families, emphasizing healthy parenting, family support systems, and early childhood care. Meanwhile, the young girls seeking relaxation and mindfulness participated in rejuvenating yoga sessions that promoted both physical and mental balance.

Another exciting addition to this year's Scrub Life Expo was the Open Closet clothing booth, which quickly drew the attention of attendees throughout the



event. The unique initiative allowed women and young girls to browse through a variety of stylish clothing pieces and freely select outfits that matched their personal style and comfort.

Children were not left out of the celebration as the lively kiddie corner kept young attendees entertained with games, lucky dips, activities, and interactive learning experiences throughout the day.

Adding a creative and impactful touch to the expo was a special presentation by the Antigua Girls High School Drama Club, whose performance captivated attendees while addressing important social themes relevant to young women and society.

As the Scrub Life Cares Women and Girls Expo celebrates five years of service and impact, the event continues to stand as a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when passion, advocacy, and community come together with a shared purpose.

*Tanya Ambrose, MPH
 Founder and CEO, Scrub Life Cares
info@scrublifecares.org
www.scrublifecares.org*

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Regional News

CDB president urges bold action to break Caribbean debt and climate crisis cycle

Caribbean Development Bank President Daniel M. Best has warned that Caribbean nations must urgently rethink how they finance development and climate resilience or risk remaining stuck in a cycle of mounting debt, weak economic growth, and worsening climate-related disasters.

Speaking during IDB Invest Sustainability Week 2026, a CDB release shared that Best called on governments, multilateral institutions, investors, and private sector stakeholders to move away from piecemeal solutions and adopt bolder, long-term strategies to address the region's growing economic vulnerabilities.

According to the Bank President, the Caribbean is expected to face gross financing needs of approximately US\$65.2 billion over the next decade. At the same time, the region requires an estimated US\$14 billion every year to strengthen climate resilience, yet less than 10 per cent of that amount is currently being secured.

During his keynote address, Best emphasized the importance of attracting stronger private sector involvement, expanding innovative financial mechanisms, and deepening cooperation among development partners.

"Across our region, the private sector is not simply a beneficiary of development—it is a primary driver of growth, employment, and productivity," Best said. "If we are serious about building resilient economies, then the private sector must be enabled, incentivised, and financed to lead that transformation."

Best outlined the difficult economic realities confronting many Caribbean countries, including heavy debt obligations, limited government spending capacity, and repeated external shocks caused by climate events and global economic instability. He noted that even countries with solid repayment records continue to face high borrow-



ing costs.

"The result is a difficult cycle," he said. "Debt servicing crowds out investment, investment constraints limit growth, and limited growth reinforces fiscal vulnerability."

He also highlighted the increasing threat posed by climate change, pointing out that the Caribbean has experienced five Category 5 hurricanes within the last eight years. According to Best, this demonstrates that climate risk is already having a severe impact on the region rather than being a distant concern.

As part of the discussion, Best pointed to the Multi-Guarantor Debt-for-Resilience Swap as an example of the type of innovative financing model needed to help countries create fiscal space while investing in long-term resilience.

"At its heart, this swap is about partnership and choice," the President explained. "It brings together multiple guarantors to reduce risk, lower borrowing costs, and create meaningful fiscal space that governments can redirect toward long-term resilience investments such as health care, climate adaptation, disaster preparedness and other pressing priorities."

As per the release, he stressed that initiatives like these will only succeed through collaboration among governments, multilateral development banks, private insurers, commercial financial institutions, and investors.

Best also highlighted the Caribbean Development Bank's ongoing efforts to strengthen private sector engagement through blended financing, guarantees, co-financing arrangements, and entrepreneurship initiatives designed to improve the region's overall investment environment.

"This is not debt relief for its own sake," Best said. "It is debt transformation—turning liabilities into opportunities, and obligations into investments in people, communities, and futures."

In closing, the CDB President urged regional and international partners to move beyond discussions and take decisive action that matches the scale of the Caribbean's challenges.

"The global environment is uncertain and volatile. And the reality is clear: no one is coming to rescue us. The responsibility rests with us—our institutions, our partners, and our people—to act collectively, to act boldly, and to act now." (Dominica News Online)

'Loud bang, smoke in cabin' - Jamaican attorney recounts 'engine failure' over Atlantic on Virgin flight



A Virgin Atlantic flight carrying 241 passengers and 12 crew from London Heathrow to Montego Bay was forced to divert to Shannon, Ireland on Saturday night after a "technical issue" developed during the flight over the Atlantic Ocean.

Jamaican attorney-at-law Yushaine Morgan, who was among the passengers, told The Gleaner that he heard a "loud bang" about three hours into the flight.

"The captain announced that there was an engine failure and that we would have to divert," he said.

Passengers applauded after the plane completed its emergency landing.

Virgin Atlantic confirmed the diversion to The Gleaner, saying flight VS165 was diverted "as a precautionary measure following a technical issue with the aircraft."

The airline said a replacement aircraft was sent immediately to Shannon to bring passengers back to Heathrow, where they were all offered accommodation.

"We sincerely apologise for the disruption to our customers' journey, and

our teams are in contact with them to discuss their options which include re-booking or a refund," a spokesperson said.

The airline did not specify the nature of the technical issue.

However, according to a report by The Aviation Herald, the Airbus A330-900 was approximately 440 nautical miles west of Shannon at cruising altitude when the crew reduced the right-hand Trent 7000 engine to idle thrust following a stall.

Virgin Atlantic said the aircraft departed London Heathrow at 16:04 UK time (10:04 AM Jamaica time) and turned around approximately three hours into the flight. It said the aircraft "landed safely" into Shannon at 21:24 (about 3:24 p.m. Jamaica time).

In recounting his experience, Morgan noted that passengers kept their composure throughout the unfolding incident.

"About three hours into the flight from London Heathrow to Donald Sangster International, we heard a loud bang and then we started to smell smoke and then the cabin started to get

smoky and the captain announced that there was an engine failure and that we would have to divert," he told The Gleaner.

Morgan said six fire units and ambulances were on the ground at Shannon when the aircraft landed. He said passengers disembarked and remained at the Irish airport for four to five hours before a replacement aircraft was dispatched from London to bring them back to Heathrow.

He praised the composure shown by those on board throughout the ordeal. "There was no screaming. There was no chanting; people just remained calm and the pilot did what he needed to do to take us in," Morgan said.

Back in London, passengers were accommodated in hotels and advised to rebook their travel. Virgin Atlantic said affected customers are being rebooked on Montego Bay services subject to availability, with the option of choosing a different destination or requesting a refund.

Morgan said he was booked on the next available flight on Monday but some passengers have been delayed to Thursday.

He credited fellow Jamaicans on board for rallying to assist those less comfortable with technology in navigating the rebooking process.

"When we got to the hotel, how the Jamaicans came together to assist each other in rebooking, because of course, some people aren't app savvy or tech savvy and didn't know what to do," he said.

"We're just really feeling blessed. It could have been worse, but we're here, and we're here," he said.

The Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority told The Gleaner on Sunday that it is aware of the incident but could not provide any immediate details. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Interest in sustainable living continues to grow in SVG



Interest in sustainable living and home food production in St Vincent continues to surge, as evidenced by the launch of this year's Home Gardening Training Program.

The initiative recently opened with record-breaking numbers, signalling a strong community push towards self-sufficiency and agricultural skill-building.

This year's launch saw an unprecedented 92 individuals register for the program, with 73 participants registering for the opening day alone, marking both the highest registration and highest attendance numbers in the program's history. The new cohort is incredibly diverse, welcoming everyone from complete novices to veteran gardeners boasting over 10 years of experience.

While organizers noted that it is customary not to provide startup capital or materials, they emphasized that participants will still receive robust support at the beginning of their journey. A

dedicated WhatsApp group, which has proven highly beneficial based on past feedback, will be maintained to offer ongoing assistance. Furthermore, gardeners are backed by a strong support network, including extension officers, the rural transformation unit, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Organizers are actively working to curb dropout rates this year by reminding participants of the tangible rewards of seeing the program through to the end. Whether participants finish first or simply participate, the primary goals are to cultivate enough food to eat, potentially generate income through sales, and benefit directly from the act of cultivation itself.

The program will culminate in a judging period scheduled for October. Participants' gardens will be evaluated across several key categories, including overall garden management, sustainability of the layout, general appearance, and efficient use of space. Judges will also look closely at the use of technology, evaluating how well

participants implement DIY solutions and various mulching techniques, such as plastic or grass mulch.

Organizers also highlighted that record-keeping is an essential part of the gardening process, as it helps participants accurately time their harvests. This timing is crucial, as gardeners are encouraged to align their production so they can display and market their fresh produce at the upcoming World Food Day exhibition on October 16th.

The Home Gardening Training Program serves a much broader purpose than simply growing plants. Home gardens empower residents to not only feed themselves and generate extra income, but also play a vital role in national development by helping to reduce the country's import bill. By fostering home food production, the initiative is actively contributing to the fight against food insecurity and working to reduce the prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the community. (St Vincent Times)

Strong magnitude 6.0 earthquake rocks the Southern Caribbean



A significant 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck the Southern Caribbean on Saturday evening, shaking several islands across the region.

According to data released by the UWI Seismic Research Centre, the seismic event occurred precisely at 5:27 pm local time on May 30, 2026.

The earthquake originated at a depth of 53 kilometers below the surface, with its epicenter located at coordinates 12.21N latitude and 59.57W longitude.

The tremor's epicenter was situated in close proximity to several major population centers.

It was recorded just 100 kilometers south of Bridgetown, Barbados.

Residents in other nations were also in the vicinity of the quake, with the epicenter located 173 kilometers northeast of Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago, and 212 kilometers south-east of Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (St Vincent Times)



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Africa CDC says over 1,100 suspected Ebola cases in DR Congo and Uganda



More than 1,100 people were suspected of having contracted Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbouring Uganda, the head of the African Union's health agency said on Sunday in a commentary for the Financial Times.

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Director General Jean Kaseya said there were 263 confirmed cases in both countries as of Saturday, with 43 confirmed deaths.

More than 1,100 suspected cases were still being investigated, he wrote in the editorial. On Thursday, the Africa CDC said there had been 246 suspected deaths from the virus.

"We must move at the speed of the epidemic," added Kaseya, criticising Africa's dependence on outside financial support.

The health ministers of the DR Congo, Uganda and South Sudan recently adopted a US\$319-million response plan to the outbreak.

"That momentum must now expand across the continent," Kaseya said, calling the latest Ebola outbreak a "serious test" for the Africa CDC and the African Union.

"This outbreak will not be the last," he added.

The outbreak was declared on May 15 in Ituri, in the northeast DR Congo, which is home to more than 100 million people and is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The virus, which can cause a deadly haemorrhagic fever, has been detected in three Congolese provinces as well as in Uganda.

No vaccine or approved treatment is available against the Bundibugyo strain of the virus, and efforts to contain its spread rely mainly on preventative measures.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has triggered an international health alert but the true scale of the outbreak is not yet known.

International health authorities believe that current figures are likely an underestimation.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus continued a visit to Ituri province on Sunday and has pledged support to local communities affected by the outbreak.

"You are not alone in this. We are here, we are with you and we will see this through together," he said after arriving on Saturday. (AFP)

Nearly 100,000 Honda vehicles recalled over airbag issues

Honda is recalling nearly 100,000 vehicles due to airbag complications, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The safety regulator has flagged a defect that could trigger the unintentional deployment of airbags.

Honda said the defect is in the front passenger seat's weight sensor. A capacitor inside the sensor's printed circuit board can crack after exposure to humidity and could lead to a short circuit, the recall notice said.

"In the event of a crash, the front passenger frontal and knee airbags may deploy" even if the occupant is an infant in a child seat, a child or a person below a certain size limit "for whom deployment should be suppressed, increasing the risk of injury," Honda said.

Most of the models affected include

the Accord Hybrid, the Honda Acura TLX and specific 2022 Accord vehicles:

- 2016-2022 Honda Civic
- 2016-2022 Honda Accord
- 2017-2022 Honda Accord Hybrid
- 2017-2021 Honda Civic Hatchback
- 2017-2018, 2021 Honda Civic Type R
- 2017-2022 Honda CR-V
- 2017-2022 Honda Pilot
- 2017-2021, 2023, 2025 Honda Ridgeline
- 2017-2020, 2022-2026 Acura MDX
- 2018-2026 Honda Odyssey
- 2018-2020 Honda Fit
- 2018-2021, 2023 Acura TLX
- 2019-2021 Honda HR-V
- 2019-2021 Honda Passport

2019-2022 Honda Insight

2019-2024 Acura RDX

2020-2022 Honda CR-V Hybrid

Honda has received 228 warranty claims as of May 14, the recall notice said. The company also said it has no reports of injuries or deaths related to this issue in the U.S. between Feb. 4, 2021, and Oct. 30, 2025.

Honda said registered owners will be contacted by mail and instructed to take their vehicles to an authorized Honda or Acura dealer, where the seat weight sensor will be replaced with a nondefective part.

Owners are expected to receive notification letters beginning July 6 and can reach Honda customer service at 1-888-234-2138, along with Acura customer service at 1-800-382-2238. (NBC)



Laos cave survivors help with plan to find last two missing men



Some of those freed from a flooded cave in Laos are helping in efforts to find the last two missing men trapped inside, rescuers have said.

So far, five of the seven initially miss-

ing have been rescued but it is believed the remaining two men are trapped deeper inside the cave in a mountainous area of the central Xaysomboun province.

The men, all local villagers, entered the narrow tunnels on 20 May in search of gold but flash floods stopped them from leaving.

A rescuer told AFP on Sunday that several survivors were giving advice from their hospital room on how to find the remaining men, including descriptions of the deeper part of the cave

A Laotian rescue group said the men's information on the cave system - which extends deep underground and in some places measures around 50cm (20in) wide - was "considered substantial" and was being used in preparing a new search plan.

It comes as reports said the four men who left the cave on Saturday managed to free themselves without the help of rescuers after the water level lowered.

One unverified video posted to social media showed cheers from both rescu-

ers and onlookers as the men emerged from the cave.

It was unclear what caused the water to lower, but a Japanese rescue diver told the Associated Press on Sunday that flood water was being drained from the cave.

Yoshitaka Isaji said the passage used in rescue efforts on Saturday was currently impassable because a drainage pump had broken, but repair efforts were ongoing.

Later on Sunday, Laos's Rescue Volunteer for People group said on social media that search operations were suspended due to heavy rain causing water to flow down into the cave's entrance. They said efforts would continue on Monday.

According to the Met Office forecast for nearby capital Vientiane, rain is unlikely in the region on Monday.

Specialist divers from other countries including Thailand, Indonesia, France and Australia are also helping the searches.

The first man was freed by rescuers on Friday. (BBC)

Meteor explodes over US with blast equivalent to 300 tonnes of TNT

A meteor crashing toward Earth exploded over the northeastern United States (US) on Saturday, NASA said, setting off booms that echoed over the region with a blast equivalent to 300 tonnes of TNT.

The fireball broke up over northeastern Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire at 2:06 pm (1806 GMT), the US space agen-

cy's Deputy News Chief Jennifer Dooren told AFP in a statement.

"This fireball was not associated with any currently active meteor shower, but it was a natural object and not a re-entry of space debris or a satellite," she said.

"The energy released at breakup is estimated to be equivalent to about 300 tonnes of TNT, which ac-

counts for the loud booms."

The meteor was travelling at 75,000 mph (more than 120,000 kph) at an altitude of 40 miles when it broke apart, Dooren said.

Area residents were alarmed by the unexpected loud booms, with social media users reporting they were so powerful that houses were shaking.

In 2013, a fireball streaked above Chelyabinsk, Russia. The house-sized space rock blew apart 14 miles above the ground, releasing a blast equivalent to 440,000 tonnes of TNT, NASA said.

The explosion blew out windows over 200 square miles (518 square kilometres), injuring more than 1,600 people, mostly due to broken glass. (AFP)



Rising Sun beat Police in Thursday League T20 competition

Back-to-back champions Rising Sun claimed a six-wicket victory over Police in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League in their latest outing in the T20 contest.

Police made 141 for nine off their allotted 20 overs. Malik Marcellin slammed 74, and Deran Benta struck 21.

Jakeem Pollard snapped up three for 10, Clever Martin grabbed three for 19, and Demari Benta picked up two wickets for six runs.

In reply, Rising Sun achieved victory by scoring 144 for four. Jewel Andrew hit 47, Junior Henry cracked 34, and Jakeem Pollard struck 31 not out.

Deran Benta captured two for 25, and off-spinner James Cornelius claimed two for 35.

Meanwhile, the preliminary stage of the ACB Parish League Sir Curtly Ambrose Limited Overs Championship concluded with the last round of matches on Saturday.

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Da Project and CG Gunners win ABBA's playoffs championships



Da Project celebrate with their trophy after winning the ABBA Division 1 playoff title at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

Da Project and Cedar Grove Gunners have captured the titles in their respective divisions after winning the finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABFA) playoff championships.

Both teams secured the championships by winning their respective best-of-five finals 3-1 with hard-fought victories in Game 4 at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday evening.

The second-seeded Da Project snatched an 82-73 victory over top seed EZ Fit Flyers to dethrone the reigning three-peat champions and clinch the Division 1 playoff title.

Terry Dawkins shot a game-high 22 points and claimed seven rebounds;

T-Shawn Lewis sank 17 points and snatched seven rebounds; Cornell Greenwood converted 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; Delonte Phillip provided 13 points and seven rebounds; and Malik Moore chipped in with eight points, 10 rebounds, and six assists for Da Project.

Kevin Cox sank 19 points and claimed nine rebounds; Nick Moore converted 15 points and snatched nine rebounds; Daniel Perez had 12 points and five rebounds; and Kwame Brathwaite scored 10 points for the Flyers, who retained this year's Division 1 league title.

League champions and top seed Cedar Grove Gunners prevailed 65-62 over second-seed Cuties Ovals

Ojays 2 to complete the double by capturing the Second Division playoff crown.

Sergio Symister sank 13 points; John Rolland Jr. converted 12 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; Keaddy Martin had 10 points and five rebounds; Tyras Grayman scored nine points and secured 20 rebounds; and Iornie Joseph chipped in with eight points and nine rebounds for the Gunners.

Tajahron Davis shot a game-high 24 points and claimed six rebounds and five steals; Yohhan Nicholas sank 23 points and snatched five rebounds; and Orion Seraphine scored nine points and secured six rebounds for the Ovals Ojays 2.

Dominant batting display propels Windies Women to victory

An impressive batting performance by the West Indies Women powered them to a comfortable 25-run victory over Pakistan Women and their second straight win in the Evara Tri-Nation T20I series here at Castle Avenue on Friday.

Captain Hayley Matthews gave her side a superb start while important knocks from Jannillea Glasgow, Stafanie Taylor and Chinelle Henry provided the impetus to propel the regional side to 199 for six – their third highest total in Women's T20 Internationals.

Pakistan Women never recovered from a slow start in their run chase and despite a late charge could only muster 174 for eight.

The result followed the Windies' eight-wicket win over Ireland on Thursday, giving them a maximum four points from their two matches.

After choosing to bat after winning the toss for the second straight match, Matthews and Deandra Dottin gave them a flying start by putting on 57 runs in five overs.

The duo blasted 15 runs from the second over bowled by medium pacer Diana Baig and 21 runs from the third over, to see them motor to 41 without loss after three overs.

Baig got her revenge though, by having Matthews caught for 40 off 20 balls to give Pakistan a much-needed breakthrough.

Left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu then breached Dottin's defense to bowl her for 17 and two runs later Rameen Shamim accounted for the wicket of Qiana Joseph for four to reduce them to 66 for three in the eighth over.

Stafanie Taylor and Jahzara Claxton then rescued the Windies by



West Indies Women following their 25-run victory over Pakistan Women in Dublin, Ireland, on Friday, May 29, 2026. (Photo courtesy CWI Media)

bludgeoning 54 runs in five overs to carry them to 120 for three in the 13th over.

But Sandhu and Shamim broke the momentum by dismissing Taylor (39 off 23 balls) and Claxton respectively, in quick succession to put Pakistan in command at 122 for five.

However, Glasgow, who scored 42 off 25 balls with seven boundaries and Henry, who slammed an unbeaten 33 off 17 balls with four fours and one six, completely changed the complexion of the match during a 65-run partnership in six overs.

By the time Glasgow was run out with three balls left in the innings, the damage had already been done. Shamim finished with figures of two for 27, while Sandhu claimed two for 29.

Faced with the challenging task of scoring exactly 10 runs an over, Pakistan didn't get off to the best of starts.

Antiguan Shawnisha Hector bowled Muneeba Ali for two and Henry, who was named Player-of-the-Match,

had Gull Feroza caught behind for just four to leave them reeling at 12 for two.

Ayesha Zafar made seven before being dismissed by Henry and spinner Ashmini Munisar claimed the prized scalp of Saira Jabeen for 30 to put Pakistan in even more trouble at 52 for four at the end of six overs.

Pakistan's innings was then derailed by two run outs, with both Shamim (18) and Iram Javed (24) losing their wickets by that route.

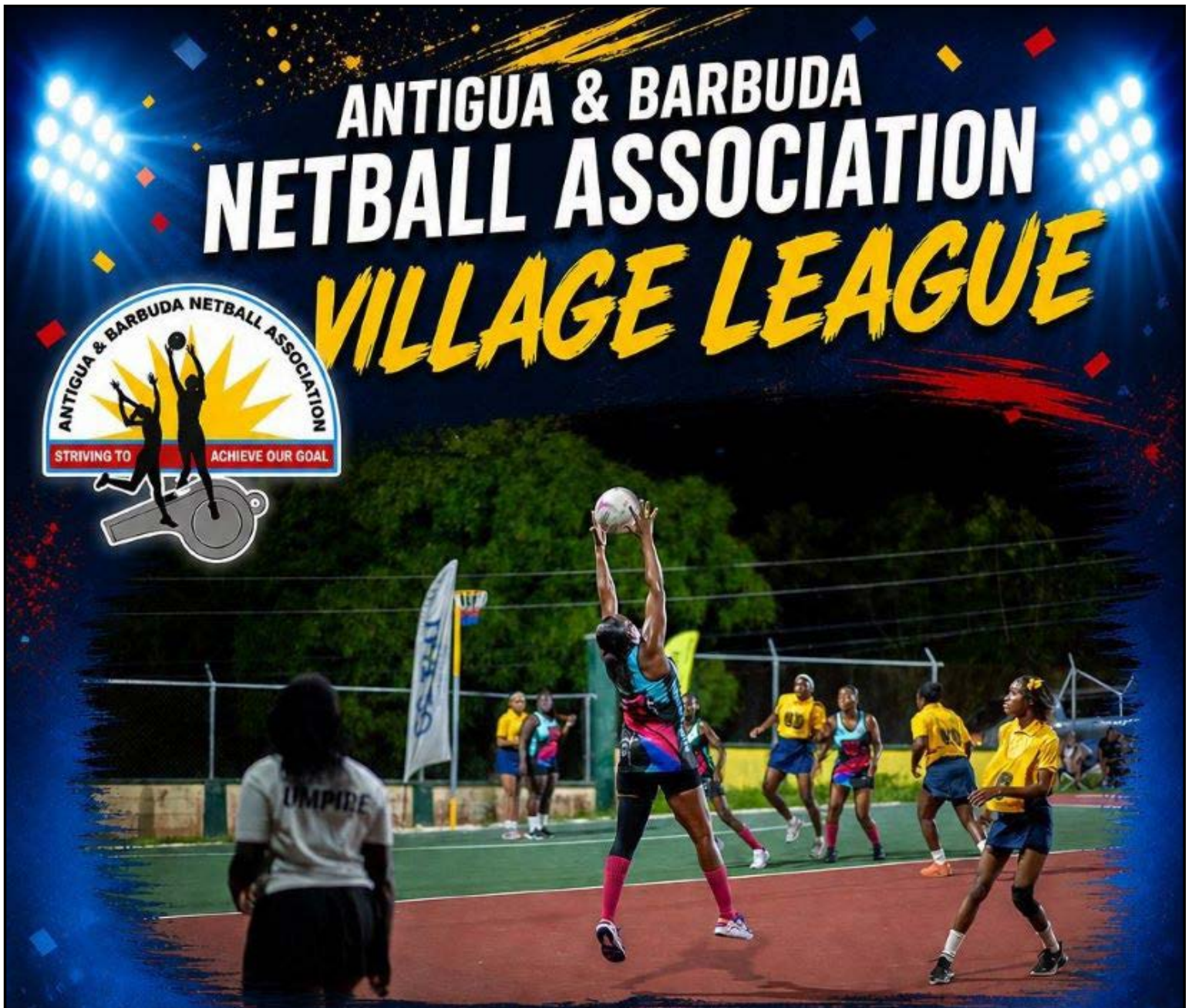
The match seemed all but over when topscorer Aliya Riaz was dismissed for 37 to make the score 139 for seven in the 17th over.

However, captain Fatima Sana hit a quickfire 27 off 14 balls to make the contest interesting right until the last over.

Henry was the Windies' best bowler with two for 13, while Hector took two for 21.

The West Indies women will play their third match in the tri-series when they face Ireland on Monday (today) at 11 am (Caribbean time).

ABNA Village Netball League commence on Sunday



The Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) continued its domestic season with the commencement of its Village League on Sunday.

The ABNA Village Netball League tipped off with an official march past and opening ceremony at the Seatons

Netball Court.

Teams are competing for supremacy in the female and mixed divisions. Nine teams have been confirmed to contest the female division.

They are Willikies, Seatons, Pares,

All Saints, Swetes/Roman Hill, Gray's Green, Potters, Antigua Talented Youths, and Newfield.

Teams from Willikies, All Saints, Swetes, and Gray's Green are contesting the mixed division.

Matthews: We're in a good space right now



West Indies Women's Captain Hayley Matthews, center, and her teammates celebrate a dismissal against Pakistan during their tri-series T20 International match against Pakistan Women at Castle Avenue in Dublin, Ireland, on Friday, May 29, 2026. (Photo courtesy CWI Media)

DUBLIN, Ireland—Following dominant victories in their opening two matches of the Evara Tri-Nation T20I series, West Indies Women's captain Hayley Matthews believes her team is clicking at the right time, with the Women's World Cup less than two weeks away.

The Windies began the series with a dominant eight-wicket win over Ireland Women on Thursday and followed that up by defeating Pakistan Women by 25 runs in a high-scoring affair on Friday.

Matthews said she was especially pleased that several different players had stepped up to the plate.

"I think as a group we're in a pret-

ty good space right now. We had the clinical win yesterday (Thursday) over Ireland and felt pretty dominant in that one and then today, to post a total like we did definitely put some confidence in our batting lineup, and to do it with so many different people contributing was really good to see.

"At the same time too, when we go with the ball in both of the matches it shows how many bowling options we really have. I think we've used about 10 or 11 bowlers so far for the series in the two matches, which shows that we have a lot of people being called on," Matthews said.

"So it's definitely pretty reassuring after the first two matches and hopefully we can finish off the series even

better."

Meanwhile, vice-captain and Player-of-the-Match against Pakistan, Chinnelle Henry said the team was full of confidence heading into the World Cup.

"Yesterday (Thursday) and today (Friday) was a completely different playing XI and to see people who were on the bench yesterday, the way they came into the team and just fit in with the performances and stuff, it was pretty good to see that with a switch in the XI we have players who can actually step up and help the team

"It's a really good look and it's a really good mix heading into the T20 World Cup," Henry said. (CMC)

Antiguan weightlifters attends training workshop in Barbados



The Antigua and Barbuda weightlifters, who are attending a one-week training and development workshop in Barbados from May 29 to June 4. (Photo courtesy of the ABNOC)

A delegation from the Antigua and Barbuda Weightlifting Federation is currently participating in a one-week training and development workshop in Barbados.

The four-member Antiguan contingent departed for Barbados on Thursday, May 28, to take part in a one-week intensive training and development workshop, which is being hosted by the Barbados Weightlifting Association from Friday, May 29, to Thursday, June 4.

The Antiguan delegation comprised male athletes Jaunii Nathaniel and Daniel Antonio, female athlete Kevesha Nedwell, and coach Durand Meade.

The programme is led by Andrew Cal-

ender of the Barbados Weightlifting Association and includes additional technical support from a professional coach from USA Weightlifting.

The workshop will focus on technical refinement, competition preparation, strength and conditioning, and sport science support tailored to peak performance at major events.

The training and workshop are fully funded by the Continental Weightlifting Federation. Logistical assistance is being provided by the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC).

The three athletes are earmarked for invitational slots at the 2026 Central

American and Pan American Games in the Dominican Republic.

Participation in this workshop is part of their targeted preparation to maximize competitiveness at that multi-sport event.

“We are grateful to the Continental Federation and the Barbados hosts for this high-quality development opportunity,” said Cliff Williams, spokesperson for the Antigua and Barbuda Weightlifting Federation.

“This workshop will strengthen our athletes and coaching staff as we continue to develop as a new sport and prepare for the Central America and Caribbean Games,” Williams added