

Tourism Authority Announces Top-Level Promotions

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Charmaine Spencer (left) has been appointed Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of the Tourism Authority and Sherman Jeremy has assumed the role of Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America.

Tourism Authority Announces Top-Level Promotions

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) has announced two key leadership appointments aimed at strengthening the destination's global competitiveness and sustaining the strong growth trajectory of the country's tourism sector.

Effective 1st June, 2026, Charmaine Spencer has been appointed Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of the Tourism Authority, while Shermain Jeremy has assumed the role of Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America.

The appointments come as Antigua and Barbuda continues to enjoy positive tourism performance, with stay-over visitor arrivals increasing by seven percent during the first quarter of 2026.

Spencer's promotion follows a distinguished 15-year career with the Tourism Authority, during which she held several senior positions, including Marketing Manager, Marketing Consultant and most recently Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America.

During her tenure overseeing the regional market, Spencer was credited with spearheading marketing initiatives that enhanced Antigua and Barbuda's visibility across key markets, strengthened relationships with airlines and travel trade partners, and contributed to the destination maintaining its position as one of the Caribbean's most attractive tourism brands.

She also played a significant role in expanding regional connectivity through the introduction of new air and sea routes, helping to establish



Charmaine Spencer



Shermain Jeremy

Antigua and Barbuda as an important Caribbean travel hub. Under her leadership, the Caribbean and Latin America remained the country's third-largest source market for visitors.

As Chief Marketing Officer, Spencer will now oversee the Authority's global marketing and commercial strategy, including brand development, public relations, market intelligence, integrated marketing campaigns, trade partnerships and events strategy.

Speaking on her appointment, Spencer said the tourism industry has evolved considerably over the past decade and destinations must now compete for more than visitor arrivals.

"The tourism landscape has changed dramatically over the last decade. Des-

tinations today compete not only for visitors, but for attention, relevance, and emotional connection," she said.

She added that her vision is to transform Antigua and Barbuda from a destination brand into a globally recognized lifestyle brand that leverages storytelling, sustainability, culture, partnerships, data and digital innovation to generate growth and wider economic benefits.

Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Authority, Colin C. James, praised Spencer's leadership and contribution to the organisation.

"Charmaine has demonstrated visionary leadership and strategic insight throughout her tenure. Her appointment as Chief Marketing Officer



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positions the Authority to confidently build on our successes and advance our tourism objectives,” James said.

Meanwhile, Jeremy steps into her new position with 18 years of experience in destination marketing and tourism development.

Prior to her appointment, she served as Special Projects and Events Manager at the Tourism Authority, where she led several high-profile initiatives designed to enhance Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism product and global reputation.

Among her most notable achievements was helping to transform Restaurant Week into Antigua and Barbuda Culinary Month, an initiative that has significantly boosted the destination’s culinary tourism appeal. The programme contributed to Antigua and Barbuda being named the Caribbean’s Best Emerging Culinary City Destination by the World Culinary Awards in 2025.

Jeremy also previously served as Marketing Manager in the Tourism Authority’s United States office, where she was involved in the execution of award-winning destination marketing campaigns targeting the country’s largest tourism source market.

Additionally, she has spent more than a decade supporting the growth of Antigua and Barbuda’s romance tourism sector, helping to strengthen the destination’s reputation as one of the Caribbean’s premier locations for weddings and honeymoons.

James expressed confidence in Jeremy’s ability to further strengthen the destination’s presence across the Caribbean and Latin America.

“Shermain’s appointment reflects the Authority’s confidence in her leadership, deep understanding of destination marketing and ability to further strengthen Antigua and Barbuda’s presence in the Caribbean and Latin America region,” he said.

Jeremy described her appointment as both a professional milestone and a personal privilege.

“I am deeply honoured to step into the role of Director, Caribbean and Latin America at such an important moment for regional tourism,” she said.

“The Caribbean and Latin America are among the most dynamic, culturally rich, and opportunity-filled markets in the world, and I look forward to building stronger partnerships, driving meaningful market growth, and creating strategies that connect people, places, and experiences in more impactful ways.”

The Tourism Authority’s Board, management and staff have extended congratulations to both women, noting that the appointments reflect the organisation’s ongoing commitment to developing internal talent and strengthening leadership as Antigua and Barbuda seeks to build on its recent tourism successes.



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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Reconvening of the Forty-Second (42nd) Annual General Meeting and the Convening of the Forty-Third (43rd) Annual General Meeting of St. John’s Co-operative Credit Union Ltd. will be held in hybrid format, both online and in-person, on Thursday, 25th June 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and on the Zoom Webinar Platform.

Members are encouraged to register in advance and indicate whether they will be attending online or in-person.

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2026

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“We Have Never Failed As A Country,,” Says Minister Greene



Chair of the National Task Force and Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene

the world to become the world’s best batsman; or VC Bird standing toe-to-toe with university graduates from Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to carve out a space for leadership, recognizing that this country is a special place,” he indicated.

The Task Force Chair emphasized that he is ‘confident that we will do this one’ referring to hosting CHOGM 2026 with more than five thousand delegates, media representatives and other participants expected to attend.

According to Minister Greene the Task Force has received positive feedback from ‘international partners’ including the Commonwealth Secretariat who have all expressed satisfaction with the level of preparedness for hosting CHOGM and the ability of the government and people of Antigua

and Barbuda to deliver a successful conference.

One possible risk could be a weather system, but outside of that the Task Force Chair remains ‘very confident’ in the country’s ability to deliver. “I see no reason why this will not be done. I repose confidence in the Antigua and Barbuda people, there talent and that ambition,” he declared.

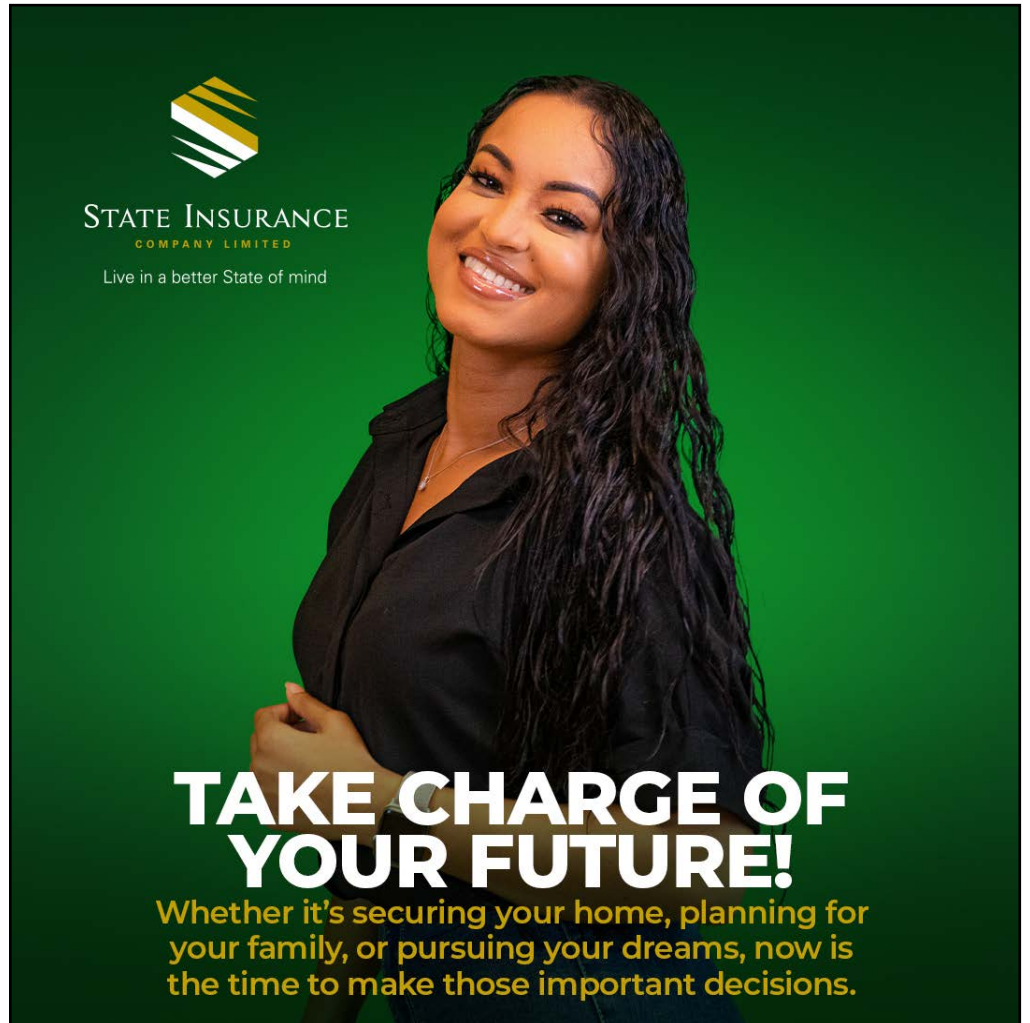
On Thursday, Greene was accompanied by his Cabinet colleague on a tour of the National Performing Arts Centre, where the former Deluxe Cinema is being transformed into a modern state-of-the-art facility to be utilized by the creatives of Antigua and Barbuda. The Centre will host the opening ceremony for CHOGM on November 3.

The people of Antigua and Barbuda will put their best foot forward to ensure that the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) slated for November 1 – 4 will be an overwhelming success and one for which the nation and the region would be justly proud.

Those sentiments of optimism have been expressed by Chair of the National Task Force and Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene who is overseeing the planning of all aspects of the major event, the biggest of its kind to be hosted by Antigua and Barbuda.

Minister Greene observed that Antiguan and Barbudans have a history of ‘rising to the occasion’ and to prove the naysayers wrong.

“This has to be seen in the context of the Antigua Recreation Grounds many years ago when the country mobilized in a national effort to complete major upgrades ahead of a pending cricket series. It also has to be seen in the context of Sir Vivian Richards taking on



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Women Senators Urged to Push for Greater Female Representation

President of the Senate Alinecia Williams-Grant says there remains more room for women in representational politics, despite the efforts being made to close the gap.

Williams-Grant, who was elected president of the Upper House of Parliament recently for a fourth consecutive term, highlighted the important roles of women in all sectors of society. However, she said their numbers are not reflected in the legislature, accounting for just 41 percent of members.

Senator Williams-Grant has appealed to female senators to take the lead in changing the status quo.

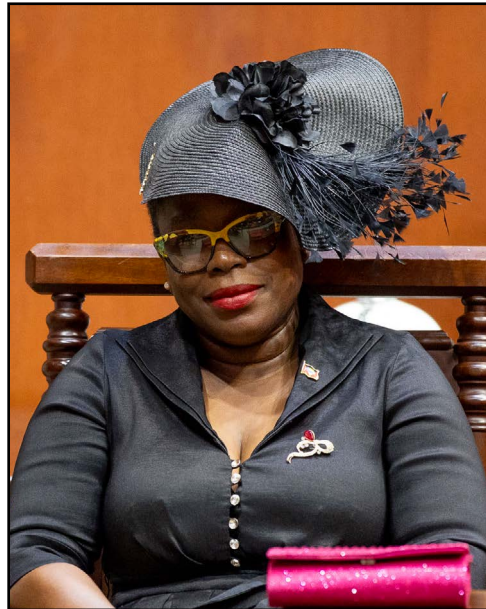
“Seven out of 17, we’re still not there, and when you go back to do your analysis of the election results, you will see who carried each one of those 17 downstairs in the Lower House. You will see the numbers, and we’re still not seeing it in this house, and worse off in the Lower House. Only two out of 17,” the Senate President pointed out.

She said a collective effort is required to secure an acceptable level of female representation in both chambers of the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda, urging those currently occupying seats to view the issue as one of national importance.

“Do not put on your colours and say I’m not being part of this because... Put on your hat as a nationalist, as a feminist if you choose to identify with that terminology, as a woman to say we need to do better in representation politics than what we have in this country.”

The Senate President acknowledged the long road that lies ahead in accomplishing such a goal, stating while it may not be achieved in this term, she is optimistic that in the future, both chambers will be balanced in its membership.

New and former female senators appointed by their respective parties to



Senate Alinecia Williams-Grant

serve were welcomed by President Alinecia Williams-Grant last month after taking the Oath of Allegiance in the

Senate Chamber.

The Upper House of Parliament is now one member short of its full complement. The Barbuda Council is yet to name its representative.

Williams-Grant is hopeful that a young woman will be given the opportunity to serve, adding, “I know Barbuda, and I know firsthand that we have very effective and positive young women in Barbuda who can contribute in this house as well, and we want to bring up our numbers”.

With a clear goal in mind, she told female senators, and those in the House of Representatives that now is not the time to grow weary, urging them to become involved in the Senate’s outreach programmes to include Young Women in Leadership, and the President’s 10 in bringing about “meaningful change in the legislative process, and also the executive”.



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Antigua and Barbuda Takes Centre Stage On BBC Master Chef

Antigua and Barbuda took centre stage on BBC MasterChef this week as the destination featured in a special Finals Week episode watched by audiences across the UK and beyond.

Airing on BBC One and BBC iPlayer on Wednesday 3 June, the programme saw the competition's final four contestants travel to Antigua and Barbuda for a culinary journey highlighting the destination's food heritage, local chefs, culture and iconic locations.

Filmed in November 2025 and secured by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority UK team under the leadership of Cherrie Osborne, Director of Tourism for the UK and Europe, the episode represents one of the destination's most significant international television opportunities to date. Featured as part of the acclaimed 22nd series of BBC MasterChef and the first season fronted by new judging duo Grace Dent and Anna Haugh, the programme offered a unique opportunity to introduce audiences to Antigua and Barbuda through the lens of its cuisine, communities and way of life.

The episode saw contestants undertake three challenges across the destination. The first took place at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Nelson's Dockyard, where Executive Chef Maurine Bowers guided the finalists as they prepared traditional Antiguan dishes for 20 local diners, introducing viewers to authentic island flavours and culinary traditions.

The competition then moved to the Jumby Bay Estate House, where acclaimed Antiguan chef Eustace Cabral Jr. challenged contestants to



recreate dishes inspired by contemporary Caribbean cuisine using locally sourced ingredients and modern techniques.

For their final challenge, the contestants created a bespoke dining experience inspired by their time on the islands for invited guests including cricketing legend Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Clare Roberts, KCN, KC, the Governor-General's Deputy of Antigua and Barbuda, and Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority CEO Colin C. James.

Cherrie Osborne, Director of Tourism for the UK and Europe at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, said:

"We are delighted to see Antigua and Barbuda featured on one of the world's most recognised cooking programmes. MasterChef provided a powerful platform to showcase our cuisine, culture and heritage to a global audience, highlighting the warmth and authenticity that define our islands."

Opportunities like this are invaluable for tourism, as today's travellers are increasingly motivated by meaningful, experience-led storytelling, with food playing a central role. We hope the programme inspires viewers to discover Antigua and Barbuda for themselves, and we extend our sincere thanks to Mrs. Ann Marie Martin, Parks Commissioner, National Parks Authority for her support in bringing the filming to life."

The broadcast follows the successful conclusion of Antigua and Barbuda Culinary Month and further strengthens the destination's position as one of the Caribbean's most exciting destinations for food lovers.

The programme forms part of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's ongoing strategy to secure high-profile international exposure for the destination, showcasing the breadth of experiences available beyond its world-renowned beaches.

Sea View Farm Primary School Students Learn About Technology At Flow Headquarters



Seaview Farm Primary School students are pictured during an educational visit to Flow Headquarters, where they received an introduction to telecommunications from Flow Country Manager Wayne Hull.

The group also toured the facility with Jeremiah Jacob, Team Lead – Technology Operations, and Marjorie Francis, I.P & Data Networks Technician. Marketing Manager Shand Merchant later presented a laptop to the class teacher, Tiffany Joseph, to support learning at the school.

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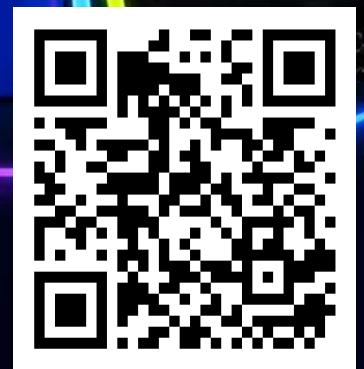
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Language is Infrastructure

Why Antigua and Barbuda's adoption of Spanish as a second official language matters



By Sir Ronald Sanders

Antigua and Barbuda is one of the smaller countries of the Caribbean. Yet small states have often advanced ideas that have significance beyond their size. The decision by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, to make Spanish the country's second official language may prove to be one of those ideas.

When I announced this decision at the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on 3 June, the response from Latin American delegations was immediate and enthusiastic. Their reaction was a clear indication that they regarded the decision as a serious signal of Antigua and Barbuda's readiness to develop deeper and more meaningful relations with them.

The decision reflects both a present reality and future opportunities.

Over many years, Antigua and Barbuda has become home to a substantial Spanish-speaking community, particularly from the Dominican Republic. Many have worked, invested, raised

families, and become part of the country's social and economic life. Their children and grandchildren are citizens by birth, while others seek citizenship after years of lawful residence and contribution to national development.

Recognising Spanish as a second official language is therefore an important step in integrating these communities more fully into national life. But it is much more than that.

The countries of Latin America are the Caribbean's closest neighbours. We share the same hemisphere, many common interests, and significant opportunities for cooperation. Yet language has often limited the depth of engagement between the English-speaking Caribbean and Latin America in trade, tourism, education, culture, security, and diplomacy.

By making Spanish a permanent part of national life and requiring its teaching throughout the education system, Antigua and Barbuda is seeking to equip future generations with a skill that can broaden economic opportunity and strengthen regional relationships.

Tourism is one area where the benefits could be significant. Latin America represents a nearby and growing source of travellers that has not yet been fully tapped. Opportunities exist in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Panama, Mexico, Peru, and Chile. If tourism professionals can communicate comfortably in Spanish, if marketing is undertaken in Spanish, and if hospitality services become more responsive to Latin American visitors, Antigua and Barbuda will be better positioned to compete for this market.

Language alone will not create new airline routes. But greater engagement with Latin America can help create the commercial conditions that make

stronger air links viable. Particularly promising are closer connections with the Dominican Republic, where important social and economic ties already exist, and Panama, whose aviation hub connects virtually every major city in Latin America.

Trade and supply diversification present another opportunity. The disruptions of recent years have reminded small states of the risks of dependence on a narrow range of suppliers. Antigua and Barbuda should therefore actively explore stronger commercial relationships with Mexico and Central America while expanding links with South American economies such as Colombia, Brazil, Peru, and Chile. These countries can become important sources of food products, pharmaceuticals, medical technologies, and manufactured goods. Mexico, in particular, has developed into one of the world's leading manufacturing economies and a major exporter of medical devices and industrial products.

This is not about replacing traditional suppliers. It is about broadening options, improving resilience, and strengthening supply security.

Antigua and Barbuda is well positioned to pursue such opportunities. It already possesses a modern international airport and a redeveloped deep-water port, both of which continue to be enhanced as gateways to the Eastern Caribbean. The challenge is to use these assets more effectively to position Antigua and Barbuda as a practical bridge between the English-speaking Caribbean and the wider Americas.

There are cultural benefits as well. Closer engagement with Latin America can encourage exchanges in music, theatre, visual arts, sports, and education. Antigua and Barbuda's ambitions in football and basketball, for example, could benefit from greater exposure to coaching and development pro-

grammes elsewhere in the region.

The initiative also has implications for security. The Caribbean continues to confront serious threats from transnational organised crime, including drug trafficking, the illicit movement of firearms, and cybercrime. Many criminal networks affecting Caribbean countries have links to Central and South America. Effective responses require close cooperation among law enforcement agencies, customs authorities, coast guards, prosecutors, and judicial institutions throughout the hemisphere. Officials who can communicate directly with their counterparts in Spanish-speaking countries are better positioned to exchange intelligence, coordinate investigations, and build the relationships upon which successful cooperation depends. In this sense, language becomes another instrument of public safety.

The diplomatic advantages are equally important. In most international organisations, Antigua and Barbuda belongs to the Latin American and Caribbean group. Whether at the United

Nations, the Organization of American States, or other regional institutions, success often depends upon building support from Latin American countries. Diplomats who can communicate effectively in Spanish are better able to negotiate, develop relationships, and participate fully in the informal consultations where many important decisions are shaped. Spanish fluency also enhances the competitiveness of Antiguans and Barbudans seeking positions in regional and international organisations where Spanish is a working language.

Prime Minister Browne's initiative is a practical policy with implications for development, tourism, trade, education, security, diplomacy, and regional cooperation. Language is an economic and strategic asset. It influences how countries trade, how tourists are welcomed, how governments cooperate against crime, how communities integrate, and how diplomats build partnerships.

Implementing the policy presents real challenges for the education system,

not least the need for qualified Spanish teachers. External partnerships will be needed for teacher training, curriculum development, resource planning, and potentially the establishment of a Spanish language institute. But the first step has been taken.

Once fully implemented, this policy could become an example of how a small state can use language to expand tourism, strengthen trade, improve security cooperation, deepen diplomatic engagement, and build closer ties with neighbouring countries.

Prime Minister Browne deserves credit for recognising that in the twenty-first century, language itself is infrastructure for opportunity. And, like all infrastructure, the benefits grow over time for those willing to invest in it.

(The Author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also Chancellor of the University of Guyana. The views expressed are his own)



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The Watchman Has Walked Off the Wall

What hurricanes cost a small island and why climate denial in Washington is a sentence passed on us



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

It is June, and the 2026 hurricane season has arrived, as it has for centuries. As a boy in St. Vincent & The Grenadines, I learned the season through a nursery rhyme: June too soon, July standby, August a must, September remember, October not yet over. But the season did not arrive on a calendar. It arrived on the radio, in the particular flatness a broadcaster's voice takes when reading coordinates and wind speeds. I remember the grown people going quiet, the change in their faces, the flashlight and candles found, the hunt for extra batteries. Now the season arrives on Facebook, and we watch a cone online. But the truth has not changed, a storm is something others see before we do. And being seen in time is the difference between a hard week and a funeral. Washington has now made it harder to see the storms in time.

I remember the year we lost the Chateaubelair fishing fleet. A friend, let us call him Joseph, had just paid off his thirty-foot boat: seven years of skipped lunches and mended nets. Then Hurricane Lenny came in November 1999 - wrong season, wrong direction, out of the west into a coast we thought safe.

He tied three ropes to the boat. By morning, the ropes were there, frayed clean. The boat was gone! He did not cry, he just sat on the beach where the sand had been rearranged into something foreign. A month later, he left for work on a cruise ship out of Miami. He has come home four times in twenty-five years. That is what a hurricane does, it does not always kill you. It relocates the life you were meant to live onto someone else's terms.

In July 2024, neither the radio nor the internet could save the Grenadines. Hurricane Beryl, the earliest Atlantic Category 5 on record, took ninety percent of Union Island's houses and every roof on Mayreau. I met a woman there three weeks later. Let us call her Celia. She had sheltered in the stone church with her two children. During the eye, her four-year-old, let us call him Malachi, asked, Mummy, is God angry at us? She told him no. She did not tell him the walls were shaking, the stained glass turning to a horizontal rain of coloured needles. When they emerged, one wall of her house still stood. Pinned to it, where the kitchen had been, a baby photograph of Malachi. That photograph will cross oceans before she ever sees a cheque from a Loss and Damage fund.

The Caribbean has warmed by nearly 2°F since 1980. That is not a statistic. That is Beryl reaching Category 5 in July instead of September.

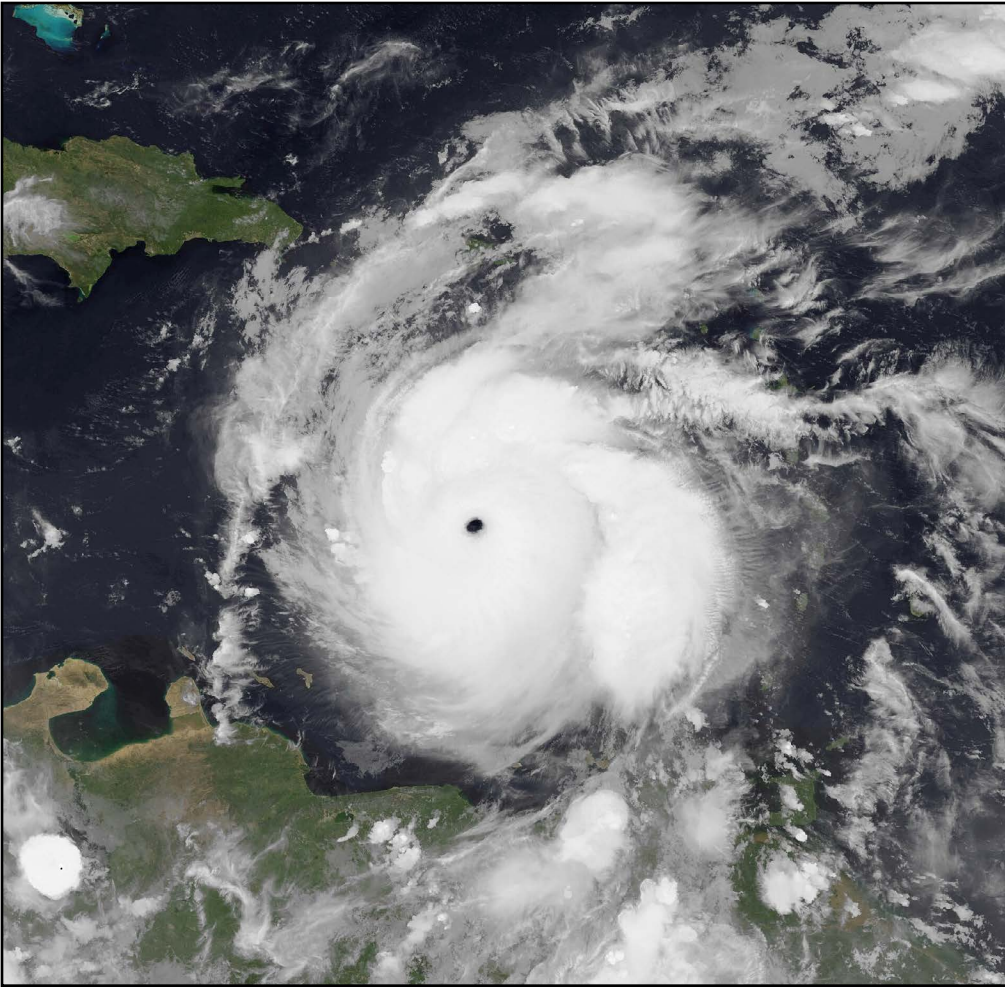
A hurricane is not a weather event for a Caribbean nation. It is a development event and it runs development in reverse. When Maria sat over Dominica in 2017, it cost 226 percent of that country's annual output, more than two years of everything a nation produces, gone in a single night. Ninety percent of the housing stock. The whole grid, dark. Poverty projected to

leap toward forty-three percent. The money does not fall from the sky, so Dominica borrowed against its children's future to replace what it had already paid for once.

Here is a number that appears in no World Bank brief. Maria struck two years after Tropical Storm Erika had already gutted the island. Afterward, a teacher in Roseau described pupils who had lost three homes since 2015. They were twelve years old, three homes, one childhood. We are struck again before we finish rebuilding, mortgaging the same schools and clinics twice in a single generation, and billed for the privilege. Post-traumatic growth means nothing when the trauma recurs every eighteen months. These children are not resilient, they are exhausted. We call it resilience because the alternative, that we have abandoned them, is unbearable.

So forgive me if this year's forecast brings no relief. NOAA expects a below-normal season. We are meant to breathe out, we should not. Every forecaster attached the same warning, it only takes one. A «quiet» season is not few storms. It is fewer chances for the one that finds you.

Who is watching the sky with us? The answer has been deliberately changed. In February, the United States revoked the legal finding that greenhouse gases endanger human health, even as its own National Academies called the evidence stronger than ever. The administration did not refute the science, it stepped around it. And a cabinet secretary announced that "CO₂ was never a pollutant." Picture a man in a warm office declaring carbon harmless while Mayreau climbs from its collapsed church into the wreckage of all it owned. He will never bury anyone. He lives in a world where the climate bills



fall elsewhere, on islands that emitted almost nothing and will pay almost everything.

And this denial has hands. Washington has cut hundreds of weather-service jobs and proposed gutting the Miami laboratories where forecasting is sharpened, without which, experts say, accuracy could fall by as much as forty percent. Translate that for a mother in Basseterre, Bridgetown, Castries, Kingstown, Kingston, St Georges or St John's. It is the difference between evacuating your grandmother and leaving her because the storm was supposed to turn north. That is not a model, that is the margin between life and a search party. The storms feed on water made hotter by the very emissions now declared harmless. The cone that tells a family whether to board up tonight or tomorrow comes from Miami. When Washington blinds itself, it blinds us.

Lloyd Best taught us to read this economy as a plantation, built for the

metropole, our survival a leftover. The instruments meant to protect us were always held in another's hand, the Paris Agreement the U.S. has now left, the Loss and Damage Fund whose board it abandoned, the climate pledge that evaporated. When the metropole decides science is negotiable, we do not get a vote. We get a bill and a grave to dig. The colonial mind did not die. It was repackaged as a budget and sold at home as a country put first.

But the failure is not only Washington's. In May, when Vanuatu, a Pacific island no larger than ours, carried the world court's climate ruling to the General Assembly, asking only that states affirm their legal duty to the vulnerable, one of our own, Trinidad and Tobago, was absent from the vote. Not opposed, not abstaining. Simply not there, while a sister island spoke for us all. We cannot demand solidarity we do not practice.

This is not a season to endure and forget. The man who leads the ad-

ministration that decided carbon does no harm holds the office for this hurricane season and two more, 2026, 2027, 2028, and the Constitution that denies him a third term does not bind the damage to that schedule. Capacity is unmade in a season and rebuilt over a decade. Whoever follows him inherits a watchtower with its eyes already put out. When we say the Caribbean cannot wait, we are reading a calendar, three seasons of facing the sky with a warning system starved on purpose. Our lives are at risk and to wait is to wager them.

We will not wager them. The lament must become a vow, because despair is only dependency in darker clothes. We are not starting from nothing, a regional disaster agency that answered Beryl, an insurance facility that pays within days, a meteorological institute in Barbados that trains our forecasters. What it lacks is scale, financing, and seriousness.

So let us find partners and build. Our own satellite reception, free of any foreign budget cycle. Our own forecasting centre, free to issue warnings without Miami's signature. Our own disaster-bond facility, funded by a levy on the tourists who enjoy our beaches while we carry the risk. Let us set deadlines, B the 2029 hurricane season, a Caribbean-owned forecasting capability. By 2030, a regionally capitalized disaster bond. The work does not require Washington's permission, only our own resolve.

Build it, finally, for the people who actually live here. For Celia and Malachi. For the children in Roseau who have lost three homes before puberty.

I think of those faces around the radio, straining to hear a voice that could see the storm before they could. That voice is being switched off now, by choice, in another hemisphere. The watchman has walked off the wall and called it freedom. The wall is still ours. Our children are behind it.

We had better learn to hold it. No one is coming.

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RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

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On June 5, the world will unite,
To celebrate World Environment Day and do what
is right.
Led by UNEP with a global call,
To protect our planet, our home, our all.

But while we celebrate, should we not ask,
Have we truly embraced this important task?
The Earth is speaking, loud and clear,
Are we listening, or choosing not to hear?

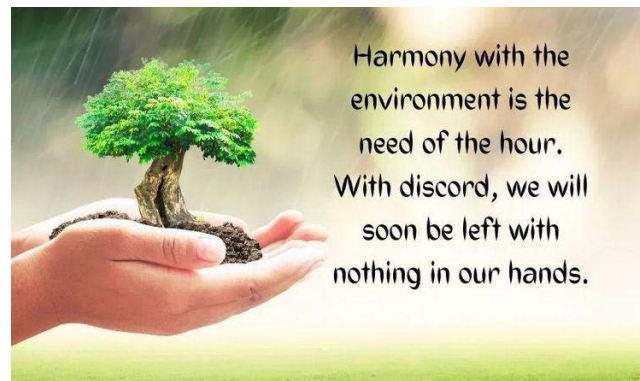
The last decade has been the warmest yet,
A warning sign we should never forget.
Rising temperatures, stronger storms at sea,
Is this the future we want to see?

The oceans are rising, the forests are thin,
So perhaps the real question is where do we begin?
Do we wait for another flood, another fire, another
drought?
Or do we stand together and figure it out?

For islands like ours, surrounded by blue,
Climate change is not distant—it affects me and
you.
The beaches we treasure, the reefs we adore,
Could look very different than they did before.

The weather is changing, the seasons less sure,
Making adaptation and action increasingly
important and pure.
But while we discuss resilience and plans,
Are we including all people in our demands?

What about the person who uses a chair?
When disaster strikes, is accessibility there?
What about someone who cannot see?
Can they receive warnings quickly and easily?



What about someone who cannot hear?
Are emergency messages reaching their ear?
What about individuals often left behind?
Are they included when solutions are designed?

Climate action and inclusion must walk hand in hand,
 If we truly hope to protect this land.
 For a sustainable future cannot truly exist,
 If entire groups are left off the list.



The planet needs thinkers.
 The planet needs doers.
 The planet needs dreamers.
 The planet needs movers.

It needs students learning.
 It needs teachers teaching.
 It needs leaders leading.
 It needs communities reaching.

Think green.
 Keep it clean.
 Reduce what we waste.
 Don't let opportunities go to waste.
 Recycle today.
 Protect tomorrow.
 Borrow with care.
 Leave enough to share.
 Plant a tree.
 Protect the sea.
 Conserve water.
 Support nature.
 Use less.
 Do more.
 Take less.
 Restore more.

Because every bottle recycled,
 Every beach cleaned,

Every tree planted,
 Every child taught,
 Every conversation started,
 And every action taken,
 Moves us one step closer
 To the future we seek.

So this World Environment Day,

Let us not simply celebrate.
 Let us participate.

Let us not simply talk.
 Let us walk.

Let us not simply hope.
 Let us cope, adapt, and lead.

For the Earth gives us air.
 The Earth gives us food.
 The Earth gives us shelter.
 The Earth gives us life.

And the question remains,
 Not whether climate change is real,
 Not whether temperatures will rise,
 Not whether action is needed.

The question is simple:

When future generations look back,
 Will they say we knew and did nothing?

Or will they say we knew,
 We cared,
 We acted,
 And we made a difference?

Think green.
 Keep it clean.
 Protect the planet.
 Protect the people.
 Protect the future.



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Regional News



Pregnant woman, fiancé drown at Guyana beach; bodies recovered

The bodies of a Guyanese couple, including a pregnant woman, who went missing while swimming at Unity Beach on Sunday, have been recovered.

Police said the bodies of 20-year-old Lyodisa “Loyda” Waldron and her 33-year-old fiancé, Andri Francis, a special constable, were found on Tuesday. Both were residents of Victoria Village, East Coast Demerara.

According to reports, the couple was part of a group visiting Unity Beach on Sunday afternoon when Waldron drifted farther out into the Atlantic Ocean and called for help.

Francis, a father of two, attempted to rescue her after hearing her cries; however, both were overwhelmed by strong currents, pulled underwater, and disappeared.

A joint search-and-rescue operation



involving lawmen from the Mahai-ca Police Station and members of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Coast Guard was launched, but efforts to lo-

cate the couple on Monday were unsuccessful.

Police said investigations into the incident are ongoing. (CMC)

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Jamaica urges greater support for small island states at ocean summit in Japan

Jamaica has called for increased financing, technology transfer and technical support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as it seeks to strengthen ocean governance and expand its blue economy.

Speaking at the Island States Ocean Summit in Japan on Wednesday, Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change Matthew Samuda said Jamaica's future remains closely tied to the health and sustainable management of its marine and coastal resources.

"Jamaica calls for increased financing, technology transfer, capacity building, and technical support to assist SIDS in strengthening ocean governance and promoting the sustainable development of the blue economy," Samuda said. "Through stronger partnerships and collective action, we can safeguard our ocean resources while building resilient and sustainable economies."

Samuda told delegates that Jamaica continues to advance measures aimed at improving ocean governance while promoting sustainable economic development through blue economy sectors.

According to the minister, sectors linked to the blue economy, including tourism, contribute an estimated 20 per cent of Jamaica's gross domestic product and support more than 500,000 jobs, representing about 37 per cent of the labour force.

He highlighted several recent initiatives, including Jamaica's rati-



fication in 2025 of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, commonly known as the BBNJ Agreement.

Samuda also noted plans to reconvene the National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management, which will be supported by a Blue Economy Working Group to strengthen coordination across marine sectors.

He said the Government has finalised the Overarching Policy for Jamaica's Protected Areas System and advanced work on a Cays Management Policy to support biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.

The minister added that Jamaica has expanded marine conservation efforts through the declaration of additional fish sanctuaries and protected areas.

"To date, Jamaica has declared 15.47 per cent of our archipelagic waters as protected areas," he said.

Looking ahead, Samuda said Jamaica intends to advance the development of a Sustainable Ocean Plan in 2027 and a Blue Economy Strategy in 2028.

However, he warned that climate change and sea-level rise continue to pose serious threats to Jamaica's coastal communities.

"For Jamaica, where more than 80 per cent of the population resides along the coastline or within five kilometres of the coast, the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise pose significant risks to communities, infrastructure, livelihoods and ecosystems," he said.

Samuda pointed to the impact of Hurricane Melissa in 2025, which he said caused an estimated US\$12.2 billion (J\$1.9 trillion) in damage, equivalent to approximately 56.7 per cent of Jamaica's 2024 GDP.

He said the Government has responded by establishing the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority to strengthen the country's capacity to recover from and prepare for extreme weather events.

The minister also urged greater investment in blue carbon markets, arguing that participation in global carbon markets could help island states attract financing while contributing to global emissions reduction efforts. (Jamaica Gleaner)

United Progressive Party leadership calls for greater transparency on international airport project

The United Progressive Party (UPP), under the leadership of Joshua Francis, has called on the Government of Dominica to make public detailed information regarding the long-term financial viability of the island's international airport, currently under construction.

While expressing support for infrastructure development and improved global access for the island, the opposition party said in a press release that citizens should be fully informed about the potential economic consequences associated with a project of such scale.

According to the UPP, a number of global economic factors—including inflation, increasing aviation and operational expenses, uncertain tourism trends, and the vulnerabilities faced by small island developing states—raise concerns about whether the airport can remain financially sustainable without future government assistance. The party argued that unless Dominica achieves significant and consistent economic growth, taxpayers could eventually be required to support airport operations through public subsidies.

As part of its concerns, the UPP pointed to the experience of Argyle International Airport in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The airport was developed with expectations of increased tourism arrivals and expanded air connectivity and was reportedly designed to accommodate between 1.2 million and 1.5 million passengers annually.

However, the party noted that passenger traffic has remained considerably below those projections. Official figures show passenger movement of approximately 185,224 in 2017, 189,324 in 2018, and 203,465 in 2019. The UPP stated that recent pas-



senger numbers continue to represent only a small portion of the airport's intended capacity.

The party further referenced public reports and government budget allocations, indicating that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has provided financial assistance and operational support for the airport's maintenance and management.

Against that backdrop, the UPP said several questions should be addressed before Dominica proceeds further with its own airport development. These include how operational expenses would be financed if projected passenger arrivals are not achieved, how ongoing costs such as staffing, maintenance, runway repairs, security, and debt obligations would be covered, and whether those costs could eventually result in higher taxes, increased fees, or additional public debt.

The party also questioned whether a comprehensive independent feasibility assessment and long-term cost-benefit analysis have been made available for public scrutiny.

According to the UPP, citizens should receive clear answers before future generations are committed to what it describes as potentially un-

sustainable financial obligations.

The party maintained that major national projects should be guided by transparency, prudent fiscal management, realistic economic projections, and measures that protect citizens from excessive debt exposure.

To facilitate informed public discussion, the UPP is requesting that the government publish several key documents, including the complete economic feasibility study, long-term operational cost estimates, passenger and tourism forecasts, debt-servicing projections, anticipated annual subsidy requirements, and contingency measures in the event that projected revenues are not achieved.

The party concluded that development initiatives should be based on sound economic planning and accountability rather than political considerations. It reaffirmed its commitment to responsible development, greater economic transparency, and safeguarding Dominica's long-term financial future.

Headed by Montreal Management Consults Development Ltd (MMC), the airport is projected to be completed and commissioned in 2027. (Dominica News Online)

Trump slams 'unpatriotic' US House vote to end Iran war

United States (US) President Donald Trump on Thursday slammed a vote in the US House seeking to order the withdrawal of American troops from the Iran war, suggesting the “unpatriotic” move disrupted negotiations with Tehran.

The largely symbolic vote came “right in the middle of my final negotiations to end the War with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

“Who would do such an unpatriotic thing. They know where the negotiations stand.”

In a notable rebuke of Trump, four members of his majority Republicans joined Democrats on Wednesday in backing the measure, which passed 215-208 and now heads to the Senate.

The measure, which will ultimately face a presidential veto, marked the first time the Republican-controlled House approved a measure seeking to force Trump to wind down military operations against Tehran since the war began three months ago.

Democrats accuse Trump of violating the Constitution by launching strikes on Iran alongside Israel in late February without congressional authorisation.

Under the War Powers Act, presidents have 60 days to obtain congressional approval after introducing US forces into hostilities. That deadline passed weeks ago, and Democrats say Trump is now breaking the law.

“(Democrats) would rather have our Country fail than give me another, of many, victories,” Trump said.

“The four Republicans, that’s a whole other story — They’re GRANDSTANDERS! They should be ashamed of themselves.” (AFP)



NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
 Magistrate Court
 High Street
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 Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. John’s
 Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS

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I, Kennassa Dinard of “iKen Shop Ltd”., DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor License Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street, St. John’s, Antigua on Monday 6th July, 2026, next ensuing for a Tavern Licence in respect of premises known as “iKen Shop Ltd” situated on Seafood Road, Golden Grove Ext, In the Parish of St. John’s, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 01st day of June 2026

Your truly

.....

Kennassa Dinard

268-786-9935

On a hunt for gold, one survivor recounts his days stuck in cramped, flooded Laos cave



Through the long days and nights he and four other men were trapped inside a flooded cave, all Mued Duang-somdy could think about was food.

They had little of it with them when they ventured last month into the mazelike cave network in a remote area of central Laos, carrying prospecting tools to try their luck at finding gold, only to have fortune turn against them.

“It was all dark, so we didn’t know days or nights,” Mued, 23, told NBC News in an interview, days after he became the first of the men to emerge from the cave amid a high-stakes, multinational rescue operation.

Two other miners who Mued said entered the cave a day or two earlier remain missing after more than two weeks.

Chakkrit Taengtang, a Thai member assisting the rescue operation, said Wednesday that an earthquake had caused the cave entrance to collapse, and that the chambers inside the cave were now flooded.

“The mission was already difficult,

and now it has become even more challenging,” he said.

Chakkrit said earlier this week that rescuers were focused on draining water from the cave and finding alternative ways to get in, with diving operations suspended for fear that the divers could also become trapped if there were a sudden downpour.

Mued had joined the amateur prospectors from his village several times before, so he was familiar with the dank air and unpleasant conditions inside the cave, which officials had warned the public not to enter. As they worked, they were unaware that the wind outside was swelling into a monsoon-like storm that brought torrential rain.

A flash flood sent water gushing into the cave’s narrow passages, leaving Mued and the others trapped more than 800 feet from the entrance.

“We tried for three days to find ways out,” he said, only to hit dead ends each time. “Then we realized we were stuck.”

The men waited in darkness with nothing left to eat and only a few small bottles of clean water. They slept, washed their clothes and slept some more. Days in, Mued’s stomach began to ache with hunger and his skin developed blisters. Morale among the men was sagging, as well.

Then, the monotony of the cave’s silence was broken by the sound of splashing as two divers with headlamps bubbled up from beneath the water.

“I thought I would be dead,” Mued recalled. “I didn’t think there would be people helping us.”

Since images emerged last week of the five gaunt, smiling men perched on a ledge inside the cave, the rescue effort in Xaisomboun province has riveted a world craving stories of hope.

Dozens of divers, cave experts and volunteer rescuers from at least half a dozen countries have worked around the clock in scenes reminiscent of the 2018 operation to free 12 boys and their soccer coach from a cave in Thai-

land.

Finding the five men was only the first step. Rescuers knew that getting them out would not be easy in the face of jagged rocks, dirty water, near-zero visibility and the risk of panic.

"It is an incredibly hostile environment," Australian diver Josh Richards, who was part of the rescue operation, said in an interview this week.

"When you don't have enough room to be able to put your head up straight between the ceiling and the floor and that area then starts to fill with water, I suppose that's the thing that scares me most."

In the days after finding the five men alive, rescuers made the perilous journey in and out of the cave multiple times to bring them food and water. They also worked on a plan to give the men enough strength and confidence to go out with divers.

"I thought I might not know how to breathe," said Mued, who had previously seen scuba equipment only in movies. "I thought if I don't go out, I could die."

What kept Mued going as he scraped and banged through the tunnels between divers was food.

"I only thought, I want to eat. I want to eat raw beef with spicy dip. I had to have it," he said.

Nine days after he was trapped, Mued emerged from the cave Friday night, covered in mud and unsteady on his feet, to a scene of celebration.

"I was so damn happy," he smiled.

The next day, with water levels having dropped inside the cave, the remaining four men caught rescuers by surprise, crawling out on their own just as divers were getting ready to go in and get them.

So far, there have been "two miracles," Richards said, referring to Mued and the four other men emerging separately.

"I think people are hoping for a third," he said, with "two families that are sitting by the mine entrance in the hope that something will happen."

"I can tell you that the search crews

who are staying on are definitely dedicated to trying to make that a reality," he added.

Mued says he knows the two men still missing inside the cave. He described an intersection within the cave system that can take three directions, and he is hopeful they can also survive.

"I think they are patient and still waiting because they have responsibilities like wives and kids," he said, adding that he was overwhelmed with gratitude.

"I think they can tough it out," he said. (NBC)



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Miracle on Everest: Guide believed dead spotted crawling down ice



A Nepali climbing guide thought to have died on Mount Everest has been found crawling down to Base Camp, six days after he was last seen alive.

Dawa Sherpa was last seen above Camp 3, at around 7,500m (24,600ft), while coming down the mountain after summiting.

Hopes for his survival were slim as the air at that altitude is thin - but on Thursday, a cleaning crew spotted the experienced climber, who had frostbite on his hands but appeared to be in good health, sliding slowly down.

“Dawa managed to survive against all odds for days. It’s nothing short of a miracle,” said Pemba Sherpa, executive director of 8K Expeditions which was overseeing search efforts. “This is a true self-rescue.”

Five people have died so far in this year’s climbing, three of them Nepalis who were involved in the Everest preparations, according to news agency AFP.

More than 1,000 reached the Everest summit this season, making it

the busiest on record.

Dawa Sherpa - also known as Hillary Dawa Sherpa after famed mountaineer Edmund Hillary - was “slowly sliding through” the Khumbu Icefall toward Base Camp when he was found, Pemba Sherpa said.

“As far as I know, no one has survived alone at that altitude on Everest so far. This is a miracle to have survived for six days alone and descended safe. I think he must have lived inside the tents to keep himself safe,” said Pemba Sherpa.

Dawa Sherpa is “awake and undergoing treatment”, according to Nishant Dhakal, a doctor in the intensive care unit of Kathmandu’s HAMS Hospital.

“He recognised me ... is good and speaks,” his daughter Mhendo Lhamo Sherpa told Reuters news agency after visiting him. “We are happy.”

Before he was found, the 52-year-old’s wife told AFP that she had offered last rite prayers for his soul.

Map of Mount Everest showing where Nepali climbing guide Dawa

Sherpa was last seen, between Camp 3 and 4, and where he was found, at the Khumbu Icefall approaching Base Camp

On Wednesday, Chris Thrall, a climber and former British Royal Marine, posted a tribute on Instagram for Dawa Sherpa, thinking he had died on the mountain. In the video, Thrall recalled that Dawa Sherpa had “sat down for a rest with his backpack” as they descended from Camp 4, the highest campsite before the summit.

“And I turned and I said, ‘Hillary, are you okay, brother?’ He said, ‘Yes, yes, fine Chris, please go, go!’” Thrall said. “This is nothing new, you know, I’d go ahead, he’d go ahead.”

As Thrall went down he found a struggling Polish climber who was part of their group, and they continued descending together. But Dawa Sherpa never caught up with them.

“It had been a long summit push. What should have been five days to the summit and back took us 11 days, that’s how challenging the conditions were,” Thrall said.

“So, do I go back for Sherpa, who’s probably going to rock up and be fine, as he has done hundreds of times before?” he added.

One relative, Kung Sherpa, had expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of the search in an interview with Outside, an adventure sport publication.

The search, when it did commence, was launched by a company called 8K Expeditions, which eventually was able to airlift him to safety. (BBC)

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Canadians complete another stint in Antigua for the 16th year



The Champions for Health contingent with a few members of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club at the Cortsland Hotel. (Photo courtesy of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

The Champions for Health undergraduate students from the University of Alberta, Canada, completed another one-month stint in Antigua and returned home on Sunday, May 31.

The students spent the entire month of May in Antigua, teaching physical and health education in several government primary schools in Antigua and Barbuda.

This year, the students taught at the Golden Grove Primary, Urlings Primary, T.N. Kirnon, Jennings Primary, Victory Center, and the Adele School for disabilities.

Through a life-skill-based approach, they delivered physical education and Health, Life and Family Life (HFLE) lessons that encouraged students to learn through movement, teamwork, and play.

Their lessons focused on important themes such as teamwork, patience,

respect, environmental awareness, conflict resolution, self-esteem, leadership, and communication.

By combining physical activity with meaningful life skills, the University of Alberta students helped create fun, inclusive, and supportive learning environments for the primary school students in Antigua and Barbuda.

In addition to their work in the schools, the Canadians were actively involved in the CPTSA Wings Sports Club's programmes in Antigua.

They assisted with coaching the Wings basketball teams and participated in the Wings Youth Basketball Festival.

The Canadians were also involved in coaching at the Wings youth football practices and volunteering at the National Youth Track & Field Championship.

Their involvement extended beyond

teaching, as they took time to build relationships, encourage young athletes, and contribute wherever support was needed.

The Canadians also took the opportunity to participate in meaningful community events, including the Walk for Autism and the Run in Paradise, further connecting with the Antiguan community during their recent visit.

This is the 16th year that the Champions for Health programmes have been taking place in Antigua, continuing a long-standing partnership rooted in health promotion, education, community engagement, and meaningful cultural exchange.

Over the years, the programme has created opportunities for students from Canada and Antigua to learn from one another, share knowledge, and build connections through sports.

West Indies lose ODI series opener in 41-run defeat to Sri Lanka

In a match that had everything, from spectacular fielding and batting pyrotechnics to a bizarre power outage that briefly plunged Sabina Park into darkness, Sri Lanka held their nerve to defeat West Indies by 41 runs in the first One-Day International in Jamaica on Wednesday.

In the end, Sri Lanka posted 303 for seven off their 50 overs, and then restricted the hosts West Indies to 262 all out in 49.2 overs.

West Indies captain Shai Hope played a captain's knock of 56 off 61 balls. Still, his dismissal, foxed by a clever off-cutter from fast bowler Dushantha Chameera, triggered a middle-order collapse from which the men from the Caribbean never recovered.

Chameera was the architect of Sri Lanka's victory, bagging a workman-like four for 45, including the key wickets of Hope, Roston Chase, Alzarri Joseph, and Matthew Forde in a devastating late spell of reverse-swing bowling.

Earlier, after West Indies captain Hope won the toss and elected to bowl on a flat Sabina Park surface, Sri Lanka's batters made the hosts pay for an early lapse that set the tone for a day of missed opportunities.

The first ball of the match, delivered by Jayden Seales, saw opener Pathum Nissanka stroking straight to Keacy Carty at cover. The ball went through the fielder's hands. It was a sign of things to come.

Nissanka made West Indies pay dearly, crafting a composed 79 off 103 balls before falling to Roston Chase, courtesy of a stunning reflex catch from wicketkeeper Hope off the back of the bat.

But the day belonged to Sri Lanka's captain Kusal Mendis, who bludgeoned 72 off just 62 balls, including four fours and four sixes.

His second-wicket partnership of 100 runs with Nissanka came off only 96 deliveries, wresting momentum from



Fast bowler Maheesh Theekshana, left, celebrates with captain and wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis after claiming a wicket against the West Indies during the first ODI at Sabina Park in Jamaica, Wednesday, June 3, 2026. (Getty Images)

the West Indies.

Charith Asalanka contributed 45, while Janith Liyanage smashed an unbeaten 44 as Sri Lanka plundered 85 runs in the final powerplay, despite losing four wickets.

Matthew Forde claimed two for 44, Roston Chase took two for 47, and Jayden Seales captured two for 67.

The West Indies chase began with breathtaking urgency. Justin Greaves, with a quick-fire 45 off 38 balls and John Campbell, 17, propelled the West Indies to 50 inside six overs.

But Campbell's running proved his undoing as a direct hit from Liyanage caught him short, completing a run-out that deflated the early momentum. Greaves followed soon after, backing away to lose his leg stump to pacer Maheesh Theekshana, who finished with two for 26.

Then came the moment of the match in the field. Asitha Fernando induced a firm flick from Keacy Carty on 27, only for Kamindu Mendis to launch himself to his right at midwicket, clutching a one-handed stunner behind his body.

Sherfane Rutherford lasted 12 balls on his way to five before he fell lbw to

Wanindu Hasaranga. At 134 for four, Hope and Chase rebuilt the West Indies innings patiently, adding 50 for the fifth wicket.

But when Chameera entered the attack, the innings unravelled. Hope was first deceived by a leg-cutter and spooned a catch to backward point. Then Chameera returned to demolish the lower order, including the wicket of Chase for 33.

With West Indies needing 43 runs from eight balls and only Jayden Seales remaining, the chase was effectively over. But nobody expected what happened next.

At 6:21 p.m. local time, with the West Indies on 261 for nine, every light in the stadium simultaneously failed. Players stood bewildered in the middle.

When power was restored, Seales added two runs before Asalanka had him caught to end the contest, as the West Indies folded with four balls remaining, falling 41 runs short.

Both teams will clash in the second ODI at the same venue on Saturday.

Rain puts dent in WI Women's World Cup preparations



A Pakistan player bats against the West Indies in Dublin, Ireland, on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

DUBLIN, Ireland -- West Indies Women were denied valuable time in the middle when persistent showers brought a premature end to their fourth and final match of the Evara Tri-Nation T20I series against Pakistan Women on Wednesday.

Despite the absence of inspirational captain Hayley Matthews and veteran Stafanie Taylor, the Windies found themselves in complete control of the contest, having limited Pakistan to 117 for seven after 16.5 overs.

However, the heavens opened up thereafter, causing the match to be abandoned and ruled a no-result. It meant the West Indies ended the Tri-nation series with two wins, one loss and one no-result from their four matches.

They, however, would have been looking forward to some much-needed batting practice ahead of their opening World Cup fixture against New Zealand on June 13.

With all-rounder Chinelle Henry leading the side in Matthews and Taylor's absences, the Windies got off to an almost perfect start when spinner Zaida James had Muneeba Ali caught and bowled with the fourth ball of the innings and just four runs on the board.

Henry then dismissed Gull Feroza and Saira Jabeen in quick succession to leave Pakistan in more trouble at 29 for three at the end of four overs.

Spinner Afy Fletcher then trapped Ayesha Zafar lbw for 17 to make the score 45 for four and help the Wind-

ies tighten their grip on the contest.

Aliya Riyaz, who topscored with 24, and Rameen Shamim then shared a 37-run partnership for the fifth wicket, the highest of the innings, as they tried to stabilise things.

But, once Ashmini Munisar bowled the latter for 17, Pakistan lost three wickets for the addition of only seven runs to slump to 89 for seven.

In danger of being bowled out inside 20 overs, they needed skipper Fatima Sana's unbeaten knock of 21 and Tuba Hassan, who finished on seven not out, to get them to three figures before the rain had the final say.

Henry was the Windies' best bowler with two for 13, while Munisar claimed two for 15.

Chwalinska reaches French Open final as dream run continues



Poland's Maja Chwalinska react after winning during the semifinal tennis match against Russia's Diana Shnaider at the French Open in Paris, Thursday, June 4, 2026. (AP)

PARIS (AP) — Maja Chwalinska of Poland became just the second qualifier to reach a Grand Slam singles final in the Open Era when she beat Diana Shnaider of Russia 7-6 (4), 6-4 on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Chwalinska has a chance to match Emma Raducanu's title run at the 2021 U.S. Open when she plays Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva in Saturday's final at Roland Garros.

According to stats provider Opta, Chwalinska and Raducanu stand alone among men and women in having reached a major singles final from the qualifying rounds since the Open Era began in 1968.

Chwalinska sealed victory on her first match point with a powerful forehand winner down the line, then fell back with both hands on her face. She then sat on her chair and panted heavily, her face buried into a towel.

"Like a dream, honestly I don't know what's going on. I don't know what to say, sorry," she said during her on-

court interview. "Let me enjoy this moment for now."

Chwalinska's run saw her advance through three qualifying rounds to enter the main draw and play in just her third Grand Slam. Her best result at a major before this was the second round at Wimbledon in 2022. Polish countrywoman Iga Swiatek has won the French Open four times.

The 19-year-old Andreeva reached her first Grand Slam final by beating Marta Kostyuk 6-1, 6-3 earlier Thursday on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

Andreeva had reached the semifinals here two years ago, but this is Chwalinska's first semifinal anywhere at WTA tour-level.

Chwalinska has dropped only one set in her nine matches, including qualifying, and has bulldozed her way past four top-50 players in the main draw. Her ranking will rocket from No. 114 to No. 14 if she wins the tournament, according to the WTA.

Her bank balance will also get a significant boost. Chwalinska's total prize

money heading into Roland Garros was US\$864,030 and by reaching the final she gets 1.4 million euros about (US\$1.6 million); and 2.8 million euros (US\$3.25 million) if she wins on Saturday.

A neat drop shot and lob gave her set point in the tiebreaker, and she clinched the first set when Shnaider's backhand went wide.

Shnaider had a medical timeout after the seventh game of the second set. She flexed her left leg as she lay on her back, and dropped her serve in the ninth game, giving Chwalinska a chance to serve for the match.

Andreeva, who is seeded No. 8, also converted her first match point when serving for the victory.

She clearly feels comfortable at the French Open, which she describes as a "cozy" tournament because she sees familiar faces every year, and enjoys her time in Paris.

There was no post-match handshake between Andreeva and Kostyuk — and the Ukrainian walked off quickly, turning only to wave and blow kisses to the crowd.

The atmosphere beforehand was somewhat tense as the players had separate photos taken as they each stood next to two children on their respective side of the net. Usually the players pose for the same photo, standing right next to each other by the net.

Kostyuk and countrywoman Oleksandra Oliynykova have spoken out during the tournament about the impact Russia's invasion of Ukraine is having on their country.

The No. 15-seeded Kostyuk said defeat won't linger given how much support she felt from fans during her matches in Paris.

Five-set thrillers ignite ABAVA President's Cup finals



Cool & Smooth & JOMA Caribbean Da Squad women's volleyball team



Theatric Lighting and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville men's volleyball team

Defending women's champions Cool & Smooth & JOMA Caribbean Da Squad and Theatric Lighting and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville's men's team clinched five-set thrillers to take an early advantage in their respective best-of-three finals in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) President's Cup Championships on Wednesday evening.

Top-seeds Da Squad had to dig deep to stave off a tough challenge from third-seeds Theatric Lighting and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville in the opening game to take a one-nil lead in the women's President's Cup Championship finals at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The women's contest was a true back-and-forth affair as Da Squad and Stoneville traded momentum throughout the match. Da Squad struck first to take the opening set

25-18, but Stoneville responded immediately to level the score by securing the second set 25-18.

The pattern continued as both teams exchanged sets and refused to give an inch, as Da Squad won the third set 25-17 before Stoneville once again drew level with a 25-22 triumph in the fourth set.

With the match tied at two sets apiece, Da Squad found another gear in the deciding set, showcasing their determination and composure under pressure to pull away by clinching the fifth set 15-8 and securing a hard-fought victory.

The men's matchup delivered every bit of drama fans could have hoped for as third seeds Theatric Lighting and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville prevailed against top-seeds and defending champions Zamine Shipping & ABI Insurance Pytonz to take a one-nil lead in the finals.

The Pytonz opened strongly to claim the first set 25-21, but Stoneville answered by winning back-to-back sets, 25-21 and 25-21, to move within touching distance of victory.

Refusing to surrender, the reigning champions battled back to win the fourth 25-22 and force a deciding fifth set, setting the stage for a breathtaking finish.

The final set was a battle of nerves, with neither team willing to blink. Point for point, rally for rally, the contest stretched beyond the traditional 15-point mark before Stoneville finally edged ahead to clinch the match 24-22 and claimed one of the most exciting victories of the tournament so far.

The series was slated to continue at the YMCA Sports Complex on Thursday evening, and if necessary, the teams will clash in the championships deciding Game 3s at the same venue on Saturday.