

OECS Mulls Suspension of CET To Boost Trade

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Aerial view of the Point Area with the Booby Alley Housing Development in the foreground **Story on page 6**

OECS Mulls Suspension of CET To Boost Trade



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

(CMC): The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is to seek a suspension of the Common External Tariff (CET) as the sub-regional grouping moves towards enhancing trade relations with South America, Panama and the Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne has announced.

PM Browne, who chaired the two-day OECS Summit that ended on Monday, told a news conference that the meeting had discussed the issue of trade "and we felt that the region must look at alternative trade destinations to include South America, particularly Panama.

"As you know, Colon is the largest free trade zone within the hemisphere, and they do in excess of 33 billion US dollars a year in trade, and there are many opportunities for us to increase trade and to get very good quality products at affordable prices," said the Antigua and Barbuda leader, the new chairman of the nine-member grouping.

He said that many of those products leave Panama, then they go to the United States, subjected to a markup," and then we are purchasing more expensive goods.

"Now, the US's policy of tariffication,

that in itself has resulted in an increase in the cost of goods, and that is why we have to explore new markets to try and address the issue of the rising cost of living within the OECS.

"Many of our nationals complain about the increase in prices, and so that is a regional issue that is affecting our people, even affecting the quality of life. But outside of looking to South America and even Central America, we believe that the opportunities to import goods, especially food items from the Dominican Republic".

Prime Minister Browne told reporters that the goods from the Dominican Republic could be obtained at "very, I would say, reasonable prices, competitive prices.

"But in order to achieve that, we'll have to approach CARICOM (Caribbean Community) for suspension of the common external tariff. So we have asked the OECS Commission, to do a

study to determine the products that we can import at cheaper prices from the Dominican Republic, and for us to approach CARICOM for a temporary suspension of the CET...so that we will have the opportunity to import goods at lower prices into the sub-region."

Browne said that currently, Antigua and Barbuda receives at least two shipments out of the Dominican Republic on a weekly basis and "so we have already established direct shipping links, and if we can import products directly at a cheaper price, that will certainly help to reduce the cost of living here in Antigua and Barbuda and within other OECS countries".

The OECS groups the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands (BVI).




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CAF to invest USD 10 billion through 2031 to advance the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean



[L-R] Ms. Natalie McGuire, Curator at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society; Mr Martín Portillo, Chief Engagement Manager for Central America and Dominican Republic at CCRIF; Mr. Ian Durant, Director of Economics at the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); Mr. Sergio Díaz-Granados, Executive President of CAF; Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Regional Manager for the Caribbean at CAF; Mr. Timothy Antoine, Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank; Ambassador Wayne McCook, Assistant Secretary-General of CARICOM

CAF will invest USD 10 billion through 2031 to finance projects that advance regional integration across Latin America and the Caribbean. The resources will support strategic sectors including physical and digital infrastructure, intra-regional trade, food security, energy, tourism, innovation, logistics, and mobility, helping to strengthen connectivity, reduce development gaps, and improve the region's competitiveness in an increasingly complex global environment.

The investment reflects CAF's continued commitment to regional integration as a driver of sustainable development, economic growth, and resilience. CAF will support initiatives that strengthen value chains, advance the energy transition, improve food security, facilitate trade, and create greater opportunities for people and

businesses across the region.

The announcement was made by Sergio Díaz-Granados, Executive President of CAF, following the high-level discussions at the International Forum on Regional Integration held in Cartagena, Colombia in May which was organised by CAF. The Forum brought together government leaders, multilateral institutions, private sector representatives, academics, and development partners to discuss practical pathways for advancing integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The forum saw strong Caribbean participation in the conversations, including, Mr. Timothy Antoine, Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank; Ambassador Wayne McCook, Assistant Secretary-General of CARICOM; Mr. Ian Durant, Director of Economics at the Caribbean Development

Bank, Mr Martín Portillo, Chief Engagement Manager for Central America and Dominican Republic at CCRIF, and Ms. Natalie McGuire, Curator at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.

Mr. Díaz-Granados described the focus on integration as "a development, competitiveness, and global positioning imperative for Latin America and the Caribbean."

In a context marked by geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, financial volatility, and a new era of uncertainty, he noted that countries across the region must deepen regional integration if they are to play a greater role in global value chains, advance the energy transition, strengthen food security, and adapt to a changing global production landscape.

"Integration is the answer to protect-

Local News



CAF Executive President, Sergio Díaz-Granados addresses the International Forum on Regional Integration in Cartagena, Colombia

ing our strategic ecosystems, creating jobs, addressing informality, and defending the democratic values that underpin our coexistence, freedom, and future,” he said.

Within the framework of the Forum, 15 regional institutions signed on to the “Declaration on the Convergence of the Processes and Mechanisms of Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean.”

The declaration proposes moving towards an active and intelligent convergence of the various integration processes and mechanisms existing

in the region. This approach seeks to coordinate capabilities, priorities, and lessons learned to avoid duplication, enhance synergies, and align strategic agendas.

Among the 15 signatories to the declaration were the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA), the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), and others.

Over the last 30 years, CAF has approved 118 credit operations totalling

USD 16.73 billion for regional integration initiatives. Over the last five years, CAF has further strengthened its approach to integration through investments that support physical connectivity, productive development, digital transformation, energy integration, and ecosystem preservation.

“Regional integration has already achieved important progress, but it must now enter a more ambitious phase of implementation. Fewer barriers, more infrastructure. Fewer diagnoses, more projects,” Mr. Díaz-Granados concluded.

Antigua and Barbuda Welcomes Adoption of OAS Declaration on Improving Mental Health in the Americas



Sir Ronald Sanders, Head of Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda has welcomed the historic adoption of the *Declaration on Improving Mental Health in the Americas* at the 56th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

In a statement delivered by Sir Ronald Sanders, Head of Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda, the country warmly commended the General Assembly for adopting the Declaration and underscored the importance of mental health as a pillar of human well-being, social cohesion and sustainable development.

Sir Ronald noted that, at the request of Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne, Antigua and Barbuda initiated the discussion on mental health at the previous General Assembly, which the country had the honour to host. He explained that the initiative was driven by the conviction that mental health is fundamental to the resilience and progress of societies across the hemisphere. The statement emphasized that cli-

mate-related disasters, economic vulnerability, social disruption and the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have intensified the need for stronger mental health systems throughout the Americas. Antigua and Barbuda stressed that these pressures are shared across the region and require a collective response through hemispheric cooperation.

The country also highlighted that mental health must be understood not only as a health concern, but also as a development, education, labour and human rights issue. In that regard, the newly adopted Declaration was described as an important commitment by Member States to deepen cooperation, share best practices, expand access to quality mental health services, and advance people-centred policies focused on prevention, care and recovery.

Antigua and Barbuda further welcomed the Declaration's recognition of the needs of persons and groups in

situations of vulnerability, and its affirmation of inclusive approaches to mental health policy.

Describing the moment as an important step forward, Sir Ronald said that for too long mental health has remained one of the most neglected public health challenges in the hemisphere. He stated that the Declaration represents a collective affirmation that mental health is integral to human dignity, social well-being and sustainable development, and an investment in healthier and more resilient societies throughout the Americas.

Antigua and Barbuda expressed pride in having initiated the conversation that led to the Declaration and reaffirmed its commitment to work with all Member States to translate the political commitment made in Panama into practical action that improves the lives of people across the region, especially those who have too often remained unseen, misunderstood and neglected.

Gov't Eyes Partnership with Harmonites as Point/Villa Redevelopment Continues



Prime Minister and City West MP Gaston Browne says discussions are expected to begin soon with Harmonites Steel Orchestra as the government seeks to expand community development initiatives in the Point and Villa area.

Speaking on the ongoing transformation of the constituency, the parliamentary representative described the extensive investments made in recent years as “urban rebuilding” that has reshaped one of the country’s most historic communities.

Mr. Browne pointed to major infrastructure projects that have replaced dilapidated properties with modern facilities and economic opportunities.

He highlighted significant government and private sector investments in the area, including upgrades to the cargo and cruise ports, the Global Ports development, and the Booby Alley Housing Project. According to Prime Minister Browne, these projects collectively represent hundreds

of millions of dollars in investment concentrated within a relatively small geographic area.

“Between the cargo port and the cruise port, we spent over half a billion dollars. Then you have Global Ports, which is over \$100 million EC, and Booby Alley, which is nearly another \$100 million. That’s about \$700 million invested right there,” he stated.

Browne added that when duty and tax concessions associated with the projects are taken into account, the total value of investment in the Point and Villa communities over the past several years approaches \$1 billion.

As redevelopment efforts continue, the Prime Minister said he wants to ensure that community organisations and residents directly benefit from the area’s economic growth. He revealed plans to engage Harmonites Steel Orchestra in discussions aimed at improving the band’s facilities while creating additional opportunities for local entrepreneurship.

“I want to talk to Harmonites Steel Orchestra to find out how we can partner with them to get a better pan yard,” he said.

The Prime Minister suggested that portions of the site occupied by the steel band could be developed to accommodate small commercial enterprises, providing residents with opportunities to operate businesses such as bakeries, pastry shops, and other community-based ventures. The MP for Saint John’s City West disclosed that he has already asked Port Manager Darwin Telemaque to begin discussions with the steel orchestra to explore areas of cooperation and potential development.

Mr. Browne noted that the government’s objective is to ensure that redevelopment efforts benefit the two communities.

“We want to make sure that we take everybody with us. We uplift everybody,” he said.

Residents Urged to Protect Public Properties

Antiguans and Barbudans are being called upon to exhibit civic pride and protect rather than destroy public properties.

The reminder comes from Director General of Communications, Maurice Merchant, as government places emphasis on urban renewal and national development.

During last Thursday's Post-Cabinet Press Briefing, the issue of vandalism of bus shelters came into focus, with Merchant expressing confidence that surveillance, coupled with a public education campaign will aid in deterring vandals who are bent on destroying the facilities used by members of the public.

From Sir George Walter Highway to Friars Hill Road and in other locations, bus shelters, partly made of glass, have been extensively damaged, much to the displeasure of residents.

"There probably is a need for a marketing campaign to let people know to have national pride. These items are here to provide a particular service to the general public. Why would some-



Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant

one want to destroy a service that is being provided free of cost to the people of Antigua and Barbuda?" Merchant asked.

He added that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is being engaged with the aim of making vandals liable for the crimes being perpetrated.

"Discussions are being held by the Sir Steadroy 'Cutie' Benjamin with his law enforcement officers to take these

individuals to the Courts for damages, once these individuals can be identified and prosecuted."

He emphasised that people must be held accountable for damages to public properties, referencing the perimeter fence at V.C. Bird International Airport.

The Director General of Communications reminded that when accidents occur due to reckless driving and public property is destroyed, drivers are made to pay, adding, "All those cars that try to imitate airplane travel by going through the fence at the V.C. Bird International Airport, once you do that, you are responsible for the repairs to the specialised fencing", Merchant pointed out.

According to the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda, approved initiatives aimed at improving the visual appeal and functionality of communities across Antigua and Barbuda include upgrades to bus stops island wide, along with new directional signs, road signs and traffic signs, financed through the Tourism Fund.

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ABCAS Pathways Summit Equips Graduands For Success



As the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) prepares to host its inaugural graduation ceremony on July 2, graduands were afforded opportunities for professional growth, networking and career exploration during the ABCAS Graduate Seminar and Pathways Summit 2026, held on Tuesday, at People’s Place.

The event brought together educators, employers, entrepreneurs and in-

dustry professionals to provide graduands with practical guidance as they prepare for the next stage of their academic and professional journeys.

Delivering remarks during the opening ceremony were Dr. E. Jonah Greene, President of ABCAS, and Dr. Vernon Solomon, Chair of the ABCAS Board of Trustees. The event was attended by Dr. Na-Ajele Williams-Buffonge, Vice President of ABCAS; Ena Dalso Henry, Permanent Secretary in

the Ministry of Education; members of the ABCAS Board of Trustees; representatives from The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, the Board of Education and the Antigua and Barbuda Accreditation Board; along with other distinguished guests and stakeholders.

Participants benefited from presentations on workplace readiness, financial literacy, wellness and entrepreneurship. Carlene Spencer, Learning

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and Development Manager at Sandals Grande Antigua, shared insights on what employers seek in today's workforce, while Kurt Jno Baptiste led an engaging session on financial empowerment.

The Summit also showcased entrepreneurial success stories through presentations by Justine X. Charles and Dr. Colin D. Williams, who challenged graduands to think beyond a single source of income, explore diverse opportunities for growth and believe in their ability to create successful and fulfilling lives.

In addition to the presentations, graduands had the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from universities, employers, entrepreneurs and support organizations, providing them with access to information, resources and pathways for future success.

"The Pathways Summit reflects ABCAS' commitment to student success beyond graduation," said Dr. Greene. "Through the Career Zone, Education Zone, Entrepreneurship Zone, Financial Zone and Graduate Support Lounge, we created opportunities for graduands to connect with employers, higher education institutions, entrepreneurs and support services, empowering them to make informed decisions about their future and confidently pur-

sue their next steps."

The Pathways Summit forms part of ABCAS' commitment to ensuring that students are equipped not only

for graduation, but also for successful careers, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning as they transition into the next chapter of their lives.

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APUA Warns Residents Not to Attach Hoses to Standpipes

The APUA Water Business Unit is reminding residents that hoses must not be attached to standpipes under any circumstances.

Standpipes are shared public resources provided as a public service to support vulnerable residents and households that may not have direct access to a potable water supply. These facilities are intended to provide safe access to water for household use and must be used responsibly by all members of the community.

The unauthorised attachment of hoses, tampering with standpipes, or any other form of misuse is prohibited and may increase the risk of contamination, creating potential public health concerns. Such actions may also result in excessive water use, unnecessary wastage, and reduced water availability for other residents who rely on standpipes for their daily needs.

According to Jason Peters, Acting Water Business Unit Manager, the practice of attaching hoses to standpipes undermines the purpose of the service and can negatively affect others who depend on it. “Standpipes are intended to provide residents with access to potable water for their household needs. When hoses are attached, it can lead to excessive water use, wastage, and reduce the availability of water for other persons waiting to access the service. We are asking the



public to be considerate of their neighbours and to use standpipes only as intended,” Peters said.

The Water Business Unit further advises that the commercial use of standpipes is not permitted. Persons are also urged to refrain from washing vehicles at standpipes, especially during periods of drought when water resources are under increased pressure.

Residents are encouraged to use wa-

ter wisely and to be mindful that others within their communities depend on these facilities. Responsible use helps to ensure that standpipes remain safe, accessible, and available to those who need them most.

Water management is everybody’s business. Through responsible use, conservation, and the avoidance of unnecessary wastage, we can all play a part in safeguarding our nation’s water resources. Every drop counts

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Volunteer Application Deadline Set for Friday, June 26, 2026

The deadline is fast approaching for potential volunteers to submit their applications for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Applications for the international event close on Friday, 26 June, 2026.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is seeking dedicated volunteers who are punctual, professional, and effective problem-solvers. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to serve in a variety of roles, including greeters, liaison officers, technical assistants, runners and administrative support personnel.

Volunteers play a critical role in ensuring the success of the event and helping to deliver a positive experience for participants, guests, and stakeholders.

“It is important that we have the best candidates, as volunteers are the backbone of an event of this magnitude,” Volunteer Lead Anika Kentish said. “We are pleased with the responses we have received thus far and we want to make sure we cast as wide a net as possible to ensure that we attract a diverse group of qualified volunteers.”

Interested individuals should submit their applications by the June 26 deadline. Volunteers will gain valuable experience, contribute to the success of

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 2026

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration invites Antiguans and Barbudans to volunteer for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, taking place 1–4 November 2026.

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For additional information about volunteer opportunities and the application process, interested persons are encouraged to contact the organising committee.

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Reginald Gordon Trust Continues Longstanding Support for Specialized Pediatric Care at SLBMC

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has received a generous EC\$25,000 disbursement from the Reginald Gordon Trust, continuing a longstanding tradition of support for pediatric patients requiring specialized care not currently available at the hospital.

The donation will help ensure that children and families can access critical consultations, investigations, and treatments that are not currently available at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, helping to bridge gaps in care when specialized services are needed.

Dr. Saleem Hughes, Chair of Pediatrics at SLBMC, said the support has a direct and meaningful impact on children and their families.

“For many families, navigating a serious illness in a child can be overwhelming, especially when highly specialized care is required. The continued support of the Reginald Gordon Trust helps bridge that gap by giving children access to specialized care and interventions that are not currently available through our hospital. These are often life-changing interventions, and we are deeply grateful for this continued investment in the health and well-being of our children.”

Chanier Moore, Social Worker at SLBMC, highlighted the relief that the assistance provides to families facing difficult circumstances.

“Medical crises are incredibly hard on not just a family’s heart, but their finances as well. I see firsthand the stress and uncertainty families face when a child needs specialized care beyond what is currently available through our hospital. Support from



Supporting Children. Supporting Families.

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the Reginald Gordon Trust helps lift some of that burden and allows parents to focus on what matters most: their child’s health and recovery. For many families, knowing that help is available during such a difficult time brings hope when they need it most.”

Salma Crump, Head of Marketing and Communications, said the donation reflects the enduring legacy of generosity established by the late Reginald Gordon.

“The Reginald Gordon Trust has been a valued partner of the hospital for many years, and we are grateful to the Trustee for continuing this remarkable legacy of giving.

Donations like these, together with the support of many other generous individuals and organizations, help us fulfill our mission of providing compassionate, high-quality care to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre extends its sincere appreciation to the Trustee of the Reginald Gordon Trust for their continued generosity and commitment to improving the lives of children and families.

Individuals or organizations interested in learning more about making a donation or supporting the work of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre may contact the hospital at info@msjmc.gov.ag or call 484-2711/92.

Two persons Arrested Following Police Operation in Hatten

Two individuals are currently in police custody following the execution of search warrants at separate premises in Hatten.

At approximately 5:45 a.m. on Monday, June 22, officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Task Force and the Special Services Unit (SSU) carried out coordinated search operations as part of ongoing investigations into reports of suspected jewelry theft.

During the search, officers discovered and seized a quantity of jewellery, a mobile phone, and several other items. Two men were arrested on suspicion of Receiving stolen items.

Investigations into the incidents remain ongoing.



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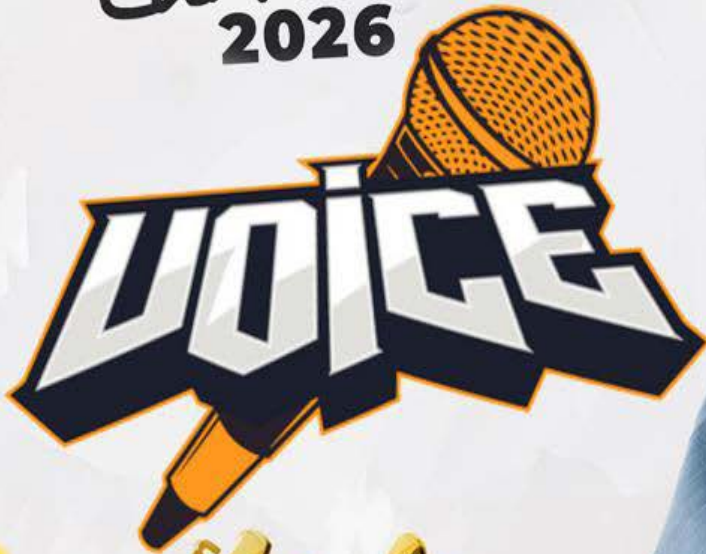


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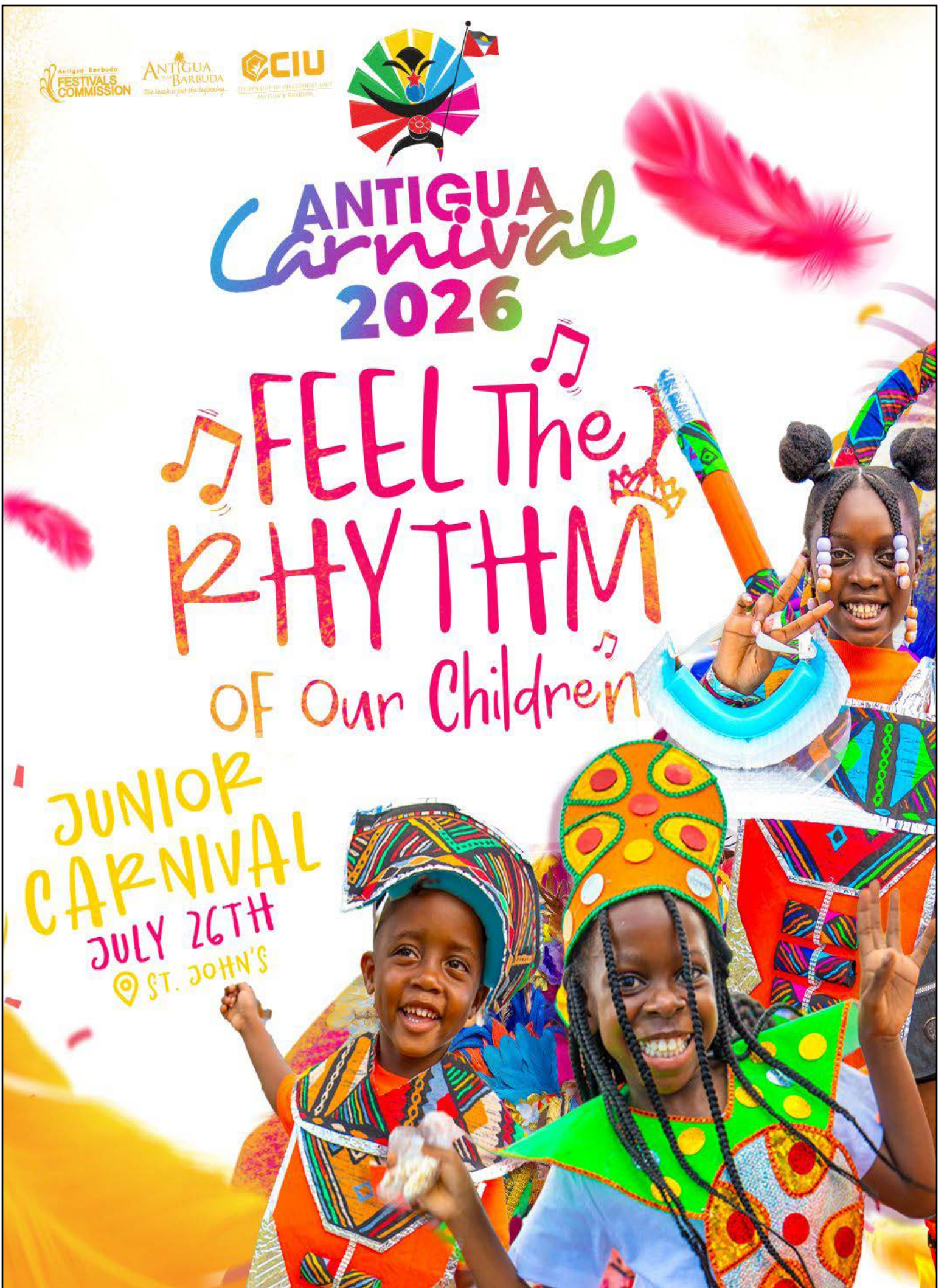




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THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM

SVG Phases Out Paper Records for Newborns

The government of St. Vincent is phasing out outdated pen-and-paper record-keeping in favor of a fully digital birth registration system.

Spearheaded under the Caribbean Digital Transformation Project, this transition promises to make vital record management more secure, efficient, and accessible for new mothers across the nation.

Historically, new mothers were required to leave the hospital and travel to the civil registry to register their newborns, a process that frequently led to delayed or missed registrations. To combat this, the civil registry introduced “on-site registration,” deploying registration officers directly to maternity wards to capture records and explain the registration process to mothers before they are even discharged.

While this bedside service is a significant improvement, it currently remains reliant on a cumbersome pen-and-paper system before the data is manually transferred to a computer system. Karissa Samuel, a registration officer with 15 years of experience at the civil registry, highlighted the frustrations of the current method. “Pen and paper is a lot of writing... There are lots of forms that we need to fill out,” Samuel explained. She noted that the upcoming digital transition will eliminate excessive paperwork, allowing forms to be digitally attached right at the bedside by an officer or doctor, making the process highly cost-effective for the government.

The transition is part of the Civil Registry Unique Identification (CR UID) project, developed in collaboration with the international firm PWC out of Barbados. According to



Omar Wylie, the project’s IT officer, the implementation of this system will place St. Vincent on a level playing field—and in some cases, ahead—of its Caribbean peers.

“When we go digital, we can basically fast-track that process,” Wylie stated, explaining that the fully digital system will seamlessly integrate with other government databases. This integration means that vital life events, such as a birth or a death, will automatically update across all reliant department systems instantly, removing the current lag that can sometimes take months or years. The new system will also enable mobile registrations, allowing citizens to potentially register from the comfort of their own phones.

Beyond efficiency, the digital shift addresses severe vulnerabilities associated with physical records. Physical documents are prone to fading ink, brittle pages over time, and catastrophic loss from fires or floods. To ensure data longevity and security, the government is implementing an off-site data center to house and back up these critical re-

cords.

Addressing potential public skepticism regarding digital privacy, Wylie assured that robust cyber security measures and policies aligned with the Data Protection Act have been put in place. “As we start to get the word out there, I’m pretty sure that people are going to be very receptive,” he said.

Following a comprehensive review of the “pain points” experienced by new mothers, the system has been engineered to be as quick and efficient as current legislation allows. Moving forward, nurses or registration officers will simply bring a laptop or tablet directly to the patient’s bedside to complete the process.

The implementation of both the UID component and the civil registry system is actively underway, with timelines targeted for the end of this year. Following additional public awareness campaigns and user enrollment, the system is expected to become fully operational by early next year. (St Vincent Times)

PM says special ops teams in T&T: US Navy SEALs to help fight crime



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has disclosed that as the United States continues to play a role in assisting Trinidad and Tobago, this country will be getting more vessels and military personnel to protect its borders.

She noted yesterday that, contrary to what existed under the former People's National Movement (PNM) administration, the country's borders were secure, more Coast Guard vessels were operating daily, and the radar system was functional.

"The reports are pointing to a decrease in drugs flowing into the country from South America but it is still continuing through coastal

areas in South, Southwest and Central (Trinidad). The Caroni to Marabella coastline continues to be a problem, especially areas covered by mangroves and squatter communities. The coastal squatter communities are heavily infiltrated by criminals and gangs," she said in response to questions from the Express by phone.

She added, "We will be getting some additional vessels from the US in the coming months. The American military and intelligence agencies are also increasing their presence in Trinidad to assist our crime-fighting initiatives,"

Persad-Bissessar also disclosed that there are cur-

rently US Navy SEAL team members in the country handling logistics for a larger deployment of SEAL teams to Trinidad and Tobago.

The SEALs—an acronym for sea, air and land—are the Navy's most well-known special operations force, according to the US Department of War.

They will work to provide support and training to the Coast Guard and Defence Force for border protection, drug interdiction and internal security, she stated.

The Prime Minister said as head of the National Security Council, she receives regular reports and the data has shown that serious

crimes are down.

"The TTPS has disrupted gang activity across divisions. However, the country continues to be plagued by petty crime, financial fraud cases and domestic violence issues. There has been an increase in the petty crimes being committed by average citizens not aligned to gangs. The society has been allowed to devolve to the point of lawlessness where some normally law-abiding citizens are willing to take a chance to commit petty crimes because they have seen others doing it for years with no consequences," she said.

Persad-Bissessar also gave Police Commissioner Allister Guevarro a grade "A"

Regional News

rating for his performance over his first year in charge of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

“The Commissioner has performed very well. ‘A’ grade,” she said in response to questions from the Express by phone.

Persad-Bissessar said T&T could expect more investment in the Government’s holistic approach to crime reduction.

The Prime Minister said the TTPS has been disrupting gang activity over the last year, but it will take more time to dismantle gangs that have become entrenched within communities.

She emphasised the support of the United States to Trinidad and Tobago, espe-

cially as it relates to intelligence sharing.

“US intelligence agencies have identified certain individuals, businesses and banking personnel who have been involved in moving large amounts of US dollars out of the country over the years who are linked to drug trafficking and money laundering for cartels. They have begun taking action against these persons and entities by restricting their access to American territory and financial institutions. They are also assisting us with security-physical and digital security upgrades for our airports and seaports to increase security,” she said.

Persad-Bissessar said the former government failed to seek international assis-

tance that was available.

“All of this US assistance was on the table for the last PNM administration but was never taken up. They preferred to leave the borders and airports open for traffickers to flood the country with illegal drugs and weapons,” she said.

The Prime Minister noted that on the legislative side, a number of key pieces of legislation have been implemented and more measures are to come.

Further, she said in addition to boosting the national security apparatus, there will be more boots on the ground.

“We are actively recruiting persons to fully staff and eventually expand the Inland Revenue division

which was previously operating at 25% staffing and are upgrading the gentax software and hardware. This will help the State to increase vigilance against white-collar criminals and the businesses behind drug trafficking, financial crimes and gang activity,” she said.

The Prime Minister is currently in the United States where she attended the funeral of her brother-in-law Michael L Ahamad yesterday.

She is expected to return to the country tomorrow.

Minister of Works and Infrastructure Jearlean John is acting Prime Minister in Persad-Bissessar’s absence. (Trinidad Express)

A&E nurses at UHWI walk of the job, protest overcrowding

An alleged standoff between nurses at the Accident and Emergency (A&E) and ward nurses at the University Hospital of the West Indies has culminated in A&E nurses walking off the job.

The Gleaner understands that the A&E nurses are frustrated with severe overcrowding in the department which has limited space to settle patients.

An individual close to the situation claimed wards have retained several old beds that can no longer be used, which has prevented new beds from being put in place to accommodate new patients.

As a result, the source said, the A&E is being used as a “storeroom” for emergency patients, some for several days and who are in need of care beyond what the emergency department can provide after initial assessment and treatment. (Jamaica Gleaner)



India startup head Kunal Shah appointed as new WhatsApp boss



Meta has tapped Indian fintech founder Kunal Shah to be the new head of WhatsApp, as the United States (US) tech giant seeks ways to monetise the messaging app's massive user base.

The announcement, made Monday night, was accompanied by news that Meta would also lead a US\$900 million funding round in Shah's consumer finance firm CRED.

"Kunal built CRED into one of India's most important technology companies," Meta Chief Mark Zuckerberg said in a statement.

"He brings the kind of builder mentality and global perspective that will serve him well in running the world's biggest messaging app."

Outgoing WhatsApp head Will Cathcart said he was leaving the app "in

the strongest position it's ever been", citing the company's decision to scale end-to-end encrypted messaging to "more than three billion people" as a key achievement.

Shah, a serial entrepreneur and influential figure in India's fintech world, started CRED in 2018 after selling an earlier payments startup to Indian e-commerce giant Snapdeal for roughly US\$400 million.

He is also one of India's most prolific angel investors, according to data tracker Tracxn, with the local financial press often reporting how Shah agrees to seed funding pitches within minutes of hearing them.

But over the past few years, Shah has focused on building CRED — which got its start by offering rewards to

customers for timely credit card payments.

Since then, the company has aggressively expanded into offering wealth management, insurance and lending services to its 17 million users.

This experience is likely to help WhatsApp as it seeks new revenue streams that go beyond the core advertising business of Meta, which also runs Facebook and Instagram.

While India is WhatsApp's largest market — with more than half a billion users, according to 2021 government figures — analysts say it has largely missed the chance to build an equally popular payments service.

In May, the messaging app offered businesses in India the ability to use artificial intelligence for services including responding to customers at all hours or booking appointments.

Shah acknowledged the scope for future growth, saying in a statement that the gap between "WhatsApp today and its full potential is massive".

India's startup ecosystem also celebrated Shah's appointment — the latest example of an Indian-born executive becoming the leader of a Silicon Valley company.

Sajith Pai of Blume Ventures, an early stage Indian start-up backer said Shah was getting an "even bigger canvas to paint his bold brushstrokes in".

"Great news for everyone in the Indian startup ecosystem, and for India!" (AFP)



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UN chief urges AI firms to 'come clean' over environmental footprint

United Nations (UN) chief Antonio Guterres challenged artificial intelligence (AI) firms on Tuesday to disclose their growing environmental footprint as part of a push for faster global action to curb climate change.

As Europe bakes under a second heatwave in as many months, Guterres delivered a speech in London that painted a stark picture of a planet that has just endured its 11 hottest years on record.

“Climate chaos is accelerating before our eyes,” Guterres said, while the energy crisis, fuelled by war in the Middle East, is “exposing the folly of a world hooked on hydrocarbons”.

“It is clear that our world is facing a Tale of Two Crises,” Guterres said, referencing the 19th-century British writer Charles Dickens’ “A Tale of Two Cities”.

“On the surface, these crises may seem separate. But they share the same destructive origin: Fossil fuels,” he said at London Climate Action Week, an annual gathering of policymakers, company executives and NGOs.

Guterres pushed for a rapid transition to renewable energy while announcing new initiatives to combat methane emissions and address concerns over the environmental impact of energy-hungry data centres.

The growing energy, water and land use of data centres — vast server warehouses powering AI and other digital services — is putting pressure on local communities and the environment.

“It is time to come clean,” Guterres said. “If AI is to help build a better future, it must be honest about what it costs us now.”

Guterres launched an AI Environmental Transparency Initiative, urging every major artificial intelligence company to measure and publicly disclose their environmental impact as



well as commit to powering every data centre with renewable energy by 2030.

A UN study earlier this month found that the facilities consumed more electricity than all but 10 countries in 2025. By 2030, they could use more power than all but five countries, the study found.

About 30 per cent of the electricity consumed by data centres comes from coal, followed by renewables at 27 per cent, natural gas at 26 per cent and nuclear at 15 per cent, according to the International Energy Agency.

A coalition of dozens of cities announced Tuesday a “Global Urban Data Centres Pact” aiming to ensure that the facilities are built in a way that minimises their environmental impact.

“AI and digital infrastructure will play a major role in the future prosperity of cities around the world, but residents are right to expect growth to be managed responsibly,” said London Mayor Sadiq Khan.

The UN chief’s warning came as Europe’s latest heatwave brought record temperatures in France and seared other European countries this week.

Guterres warned that the world was “dangerously” off track in efforts to reach the global goal of achieving net

zero emissions by 2050.

Countries agreed to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels under the 2015 Paris Agreement, but scientists now say that threshold could be breached by about 2030.

“We must act with far greater urgency to strictly limit the magnitude and duration of any overshoot beyond 1.5 °C,” Guterres said.

The United Nations Scientific Advisory Board released a report outlining the dangers of crossing irreversible climate tipping points, from ice melt that would further raise sea levels to the collapse of coral reefs and Amazon’s decline.

Guterres called for a rapid cut in CO2 emissions from oil, gas and coal — the main driver of long-term warming, which remains in the atmosphere for centuries.

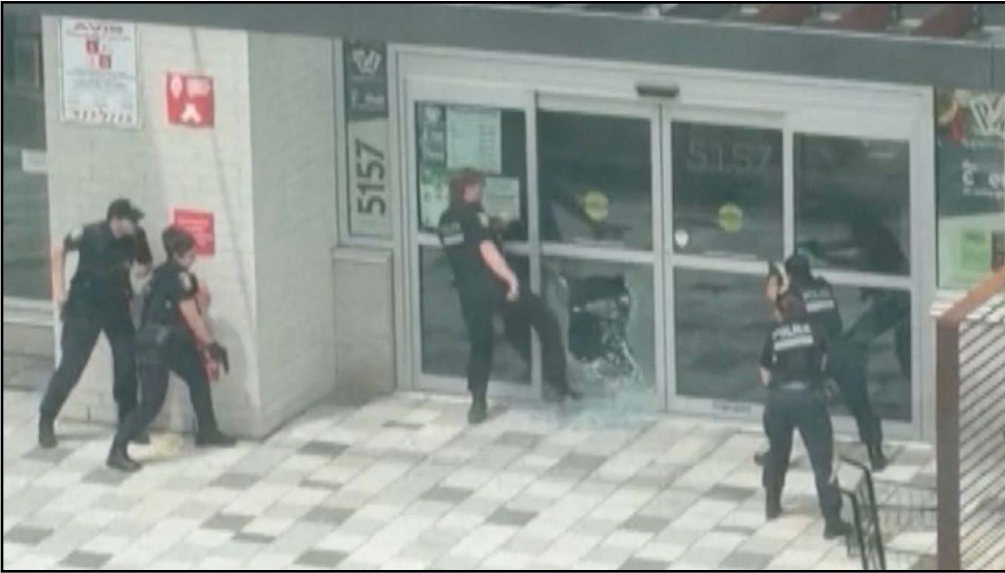
The UN chief also called for renewed efforts to reduce methane emissions, which account for one-third of warming and are about 80 times more potent than CO2 but break down in the atmosphere in a decade or two.

Guterres said the agriculture and waste sectors must take steps to curb their methane output but he put a “special focus” on the fossil fuel industry to “do what is long overdue”.

Around 70 per cent of oil and gas methane emissions can be eliminated with existing technology, but some 167 billion cubic metres of gas were flared in 2025 alone, as much as Africa consumes in a year, he said.

He called on governments to set a “new global standard” for the oil and gas sector that would lead to “near-zero” methane emissions. (AFP)

Montreal shooting leaves officer, civilian and suspect dead



A midday shooting in the Canadian city of Montreal left a police officer, a civilian and the armed assailant dead on Monday.

The unidentified male suspect, who is believed to have acted alone, was shot and killed right away, the city's police chief said. One other police officer was severely injured and was reportedly in stable condition.

The attack unfolded in a diverse part of the city, Côte-des-Neiges. A witness saw a "gun sticking out of a window", heard shots and called police, investigators said.

Quebec's security minister said the motive was unclear.

After the attack, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) sent an alert to other police forces in Canada, the Globe and Mail newspaper reported. The bulletin is said to have warned about a document that had been circulating which allegedly encouraged citizens to shoot police officers.

Speaking to the AFP news agency, local resident Danny Wilk said he was near his home when he heard shots fired.

"I tried to take shelter in the nearby pizzeria, and that's when I saw the shooter, who looked ready to fire his weapon, dressed in military clothing," Wilk said.

The resident said he had seen the officer on the ground after being shot, before the attacker was himself shot by police.

Monday's incident marked the first time a Montreal police officer had been killed in the line of duty in nearly a quarter of a century.

Becoming emotional during a press conference, Montreal Police Chief Fady Dagher told reporters: "It's a nightmare."

The police department later named the officer who was killed as Mohamed Lamine Benredouane, 34. He had been part of the force since 2021.

The department said it would fly its flags at half staff in his honour, adding that Benredouane would be remembered for his hard work, professionalism and dedication to his job.

The civilian killed in the attack was named by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs as Michael Moshe Mizrahi, "a beloved member of Montreal's Jewish community".

The Canadian advocacy group posted on social media that Mizrahi was "an innocent victim of today's events". Police have not said that it was an antisemitic attack.

French language public broadcaster Radio Canada said the gunman drew inspiration from the misogynistic "in-

cel" movement - mostly online groups of young men who blame their lack of sexual activity on women.

One of Canada's most deadly mass killings, a 2018 vehicle-ramming in Toronto that killed 10, was connected to "incel" ideology.

The BBC has not confirmed the existence of any document relating to the Montreal attack.

The RCMP did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Montreal police referred questions on the matter to the Bureau of Independent Investigations, which declined to comment on the investigation.

Ian Lafrenière, Quebec's domestic security minister, said earlier: "For now, we don't really know what the motive of this individual was."

The shooting began after 11:30 EDT (15:30 GMT) in Côte-des-Neiges, the most populated neighbourhood in Montreal.

Traffic in a nearby busy motorway was brought to a stop and local metro service was halted.

Just after 12:30, the province of Quebec issued an emergency alert warning residents of an armed suspect on the loose. The alert was lifted around 15:00.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney said that he was "horrified" when he learned of the attack.

"My thoughts are with the victims, their loved ones, the first responders, and the entire community of Côte-des-Neiges," he wrote on social media.

Soraya Martinez Ferrada, the mayor of Montreal, said in a social media post: "My deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the police officer who died in the line of duty."

Quebec Premier Christine Fréchet echoed those sentiments in a social media post adding that "such acts have no place here". (BBC)

Israel's 'deliberate targeting' of children part of ongoing Gaza 'genocide' — UN probe



Israel is deliberately targeting Palestinian children in what has become a key factor in an ongoing “genocide” in Gaza, United Nations (UN) investigators charged on Tuesday, in a report slammed by Israel.

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry said it had found evidence that “Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by Israeli security forces”.

This, it said, was a key factor in establishing “the genocidal intent of the Israeli authorities and security forces to destroy the larger Palestinian group in Gaza”.

The three-member investigative team, which does not speak for the UN itself, first determined in a report last September that Israel had commit-

ted “genocide” in the war in Gaza — a finding Israel flatly rejected.

In Tuesday’s follow-up report, they said the intense scale and systematic nature of Israeli military operations had continued, resulting in the “unprecedented” death, injury and trauma of Palestinian children.

There were “reasonable grounds” to conclude that Israel’s authorities and security forces “have continued to commit the crime of genocide” in Gaza, they said.

Israel, which has long been harshly critical of the commission, slammed the report as “defamatory” and a “libellous sham”.

It accused the investigators of ignoring “the brutal tactics of Hamas, which ruthlessly attacks Israeli children and

uses Palestinian children as human shields”.

The commission, which was established by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021, examined for its latest report crimes affecting Palestinian children, and how living conditions imposed by Israel in Gaza were “resulting in preventable mortality of children”.

“Israeli authorities and security forces have deliberately targeted Palestinian children resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Gaza Strip, and war crimes in the West Bank,” the team said in a statement.

The commission said that severe physical and mental injuries, mass trauma, orphanhood, separation, dis-

ability, repeated displacements, starvation, and the collapse of education and healthcare had “erased childhood” in Gaza and would continue to affect the children throughout their lives.

“By targeting children, Israel is attacking the very capacity of the Palestinian people to exist and to determine their future,” said Indian judge Srinivasan Muralidhar, who chairs the inquiry.

As for documenting crimes, Muralidhar added: “Israeli soldiers have themselves put in the public domain so much incriminating evidence about what they’ve been doing.”

The report comes days after the UN children’s agency UNICEF said at least 265 children had been killed and hundreds more wounded in Gaza since the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect.

The Hamas October 7, 2023 attack on Israel resulted in the deaths of 1,221 people, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Israel’s retaliatory response in Gaza has killed more than 72,800 people, according to the Hamas-run territory’s health ministry,

The UN inquiry said that during the first two years of the war at least 20,179 children were killed and 44,143 injured “as a direct result of the hostilities in Gaza”.

The killing and maiming of Palestinian children “was part of a strategy to destroy the biological continuity and future existence of the Palestinian group”, it said.

Israel was responsible for causing a “severe orphan crisis”, while wounded youngsters “face a lifetime of disability”, the report said.

The siege of Gaza “directly undermined reproductive and newborn health”, while the collapse of public health programmes “eroded the conditions necessary for a healthy next generation”.

The report listed Israeli divisions, brigades and units that may be respon-

sible for killing children, in specific incidents in Gaza and the West Bank.

“We know who they are,” Commissioner Chris Sidoti told a press conference.

“Every international legal norm has been violated by the actions of the Israeli authorities towards Palestinian children — and they need to be held accountable.”

Addressing Israeli citizens directly, he said: “What kind of people are your leaders when they give orders, they

make statements, that encourage this kind of conduct: not merely permit it, but encourage it?”

Besides Gaza, the commission also documented a sharp increase in violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinian children in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967.

The commission urged all UN member states, including Israel, to ensure accountability for crimes committed. (AFP)

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Seatons Eastsiders win again in Village Netball League



The Seatons Eastsiders enjoyed more success in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Antigua Generators and Cool and Smooth Village League on Monday evening.

The Seatons Eastsiders notched up their fifth win in six matches with a 68-9 drubbing of Willikies in their female division encounter at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's.

Amey Lake sank 42 of her 56 attempts, and Christina Lloyd converted 26 of her 38 tries for the Seatons Eastsiders.

Alesha Roberts scored four of her nine shots, Summer Buckleys converted three of her 12 attempts, and Ronesa Softleigh made two of her eight tries for Willikies, who remain winless

after suffering their fourth defeat in as many games.

It was the only match that was completed on Monday at the YMCA. The Potters Stingers extended their unbeaten run after being awarded victory via default over St. John's Talented Youths, who failed to show up for their encounter.

It was the fourth win in four matches for the Potters Stingers, while the St. John's Talented Youths remain in the cellar of the 10-team round robin contest after suffering their fifth defeat in as many games.

The other encounter, a mixed division affair between Lamin Newton All Saints United and Michael Joseph Gray's Green Flyballers, was halted

due to rain.

The match is slated to resume at the Seatons Netball Court on Wednesday, July 1.

All Saints United have a record of two wins and a loss, while the Gray's Green Flyballers are winless after suffering defeats in all three previous matches.

The ABNA Village League will continue with three more female division matches at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's on Wednesday evening.

Seatons Eastsiders will take on Lamin Newton All Saints United at 6 pm. The Potters Stingers will face the Under-16 National Team at 7 pm, and Michael Joseph Gray's Green Flyballers and Pares Net Masters will clash at 8 pm.

Deitz say West Indies' T20 World Cup semifinal spot not secured yet



Players of the West Indies women's team

BRISTOL England – West Indies Women's head coach Shane Deitz has warned his side against complacency after their unbeaten start to the ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup.

The regional side defeated Sri Lanka by five wickets on Sunday to complete their third consecutive victory in the tournament, following wins over New Zealand and Scotland.

It has left them with a maximum six points and they currently sit second in Group B behind England on net run rate.

Despite the Windies being perfectly placed to secure one of the two semi-final spots, Deitz has stressed the importance of winning their remaining games against England and Ireland.

After Sunday's win, Deitz said the Windies had not yet punched their ticket.

"New Zealand if they win their games, they've got two losses and if we lose two games, we've got two losses, so still a long way to go. We're nowhere near the semifinals yet.

"We're playing okay cricket, but we

need to improve and anyone can beat you on any day here, so we've still got to win at least one more game," Deitz said.

The West Indies will play their penultimate match on Wednesday when they face host England at Lord's in London in a top-of-the-table Group B clash at 1:30 pm Caribbean time. The winner will secure a berth into the semi-finals.

"Hopefully on Wednesday, we put in a good performance at Lord's to beat England and then we'll think that we're in the semifinals," Deitz stated.



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Ronaldo fires Portugal to 5-0 win over Uzbekistan



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the World Cup Group K soccer match between Portugal and Uzbekistan in Houston, Tuesday, June 23, 2026. (AP)

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Cristiano Ronaldo silenced his critics in spectacular fashion, becoming the first player to score in six World Cups while netting twice in Portugal's emphatic 5-0 Group K rout of Uzbekistan in Houston on Tuesday.

After the match, the 41-year-old shouted, "I'm back, I'm back" into the television cameras -- an outpouring after critics had questioned his place in the team following a goal-scoring drought that had extended to 10 matches in major finals.

But allowed time and space in the box, Ronaldo was deadly in punishing an outclassed Uzbekistan as he took his overall World Cup tally to 10 goals, moving past Eusebio as Portugal's all-time leading marksman at the

global finals.

Portugal ramped up the intensity from the opening whistle as players seemed to want to make amends for a frustrating opening 1-1 draw with the Democratic Republic of Congo as they pushed the ball quickly up the pitch to create a host of chances.

Ronaldo's first goal in the sixth minute was a neat finish from six yards at the near post as he converted Joao Cancelo's low cross, before placing Bruno Fernandes' perfect pass into the far corner.

The clearly relieved striker raced to the sidelines where his teammates mobbed him while coach Roberto Martinez sat back with a smile as Portugal players celebrated.

Nuno Mendes scored a superb free

kick in between those two strikes, fooling Uzbekistan keeper Abduvohid Nematov - and the entire stadium - by taking the set piece while Ronaldo acted as a decoy.

Uzbekistan thought they had cut the lead after the first hydration break but Azizjon Ganiev's superb strike was disallowed for a foul on Cancelo following a VAR check.

In the second half an unfortunate Nematov fumbled the ball into his own net and Rafael Leao added a late fifth in front of a full house of 68,777 fans.

Portugal, who have four points from two games, face Colombia in their final Group K match, while Uzbekistan, teetering on the brink of elimination with no points, play DR Congo in their last outing.

Bucks trade away franchise icon Giannis Antetokounmpo



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo walks off the court after an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, Friday, April 10, 2026, in Milwaukee. (AP)

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo brought the Milwaukee Bucks back to relevance and delivered the franchise its first title in half a century as the most impactful player in team history.

Now the Bucks face the onerous challenge of retooling without the player who carried the team on his broad shoulders for over a decade.

The Bucks agreed on the eve of Tuesday's draft to send Antetokounmpo along with forward Bobby Portis to the Miami Heat in exchange for Tyler Herro, Jaime Jaquez Jr., Kel'el Ware and Kasparas Jakucionis, according to a person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the move had yet to receive the required league approval.

Milwaukee also gets the No. 13 selection in Tuesday's draft along with a first-round pick swap in 2030, first-round picks in 2031 and 2033 and a second-rounder in 2033, the person said.

The move leaves the Bucks without

one of the most beloved figures in Wisconsin sports history. Milwaukee fans watched in awe as Antetokounmpo spent the last 13 seasons maturing from a skinny teenager into one of the top players on the planet.

Bucks coach Taylor Jenkins understood this was a possibility when he accepted the job in April following the departure of Doc Rivers.

"Naturally, we did talk about Giannis, the entire roster, developmental pathways for everyone you know, moving forward," Jenkins said during his introductory news conference last month.

"Because from the coaching lens, I've got to start formulating that, what we're going to do, not just this off-season, but when we hit the ground running, you know, at the start of training camp. So naturally, (we) talked about that. Had great dialogue, full transparency."

Antetokounmpo had spent his entire career with the Bucks, who selected the 18-year-old from Greece with

the 15th pick in the 2013 draft. The nine-time all-NBA forward leads the Bucks in virtually every career statistical category, including points, rebounds, assists, blocks, games, and minutes.

He won MVP awards in 2019 and 2020. Antetokounmpo came back from a knee hyperextension in the 2021 playoffs to earn NBA Finals MVP honours while scoring 50 points in the title-clinching Game 6 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Antetokounmpo, 31, had signed multiple contract extensions to stay in Milwaukee and play in one of the NBA's smallest mar-

kets. He was so appreciated for his loyalty that a mural of him — 53½ feet high and 56½ feet wide — appears on the side of a three-story building in downtown Milwaukee.

Plenty of fans stopped by that mural Tuesday to pay homage to Milwaukee's departing superstar. Some left mementoes, including a Sports Illustrated commemorating the Bucks' 2021 title that included this message: "Thanks for everything, big fella! 34 forever — Milwaukee."

"I'm at a loss for words," said Danny Nelson of Delafield, Wisconsin. "I still don't think it's real. He was everything to the city. It doesn't feel real that he's gone."

Those fans generally harboured no hard feelings toward Antetokounmpo regarding the trade. They instead wanted to offer thanks.

"I want what's best for him," Isabelle Branger of Milwaukee said. "He's done a lot for us here."

Primary School Cup finals to take place at ARG today

The 2026 Ministry of Sports Cool & Smooth/JOMA Caribbean Primary School Football Cup will climax with the staging of both boys' and girls' finals at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Wednesday (today).

Five Islands and New Winthropes will battle for the coveted boys' Primary School Football Cup title.

Both teams booked their spots in the championship final by securing commanding wins in their respective semi-finals at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) last Friday.

Zalen Francis struck a hat trick as Five Islands dispatched J.T. Ambrose Primary 4-1. Israel George converted the other goal for Five Islands Primary, which last won the title in 2024. Chantz Farrel scored a consolation goal for J.T. Ambrose Primary.

New Winthropes Primary maintained their unbeaten run in this year's tournament by coasting to a 3-1 victory over T.N. Kirnon Primary in the other semi-final.

Elijah Auguiste, Damarie Barton, and Dellon Ballantyne each converted once for New Winthropes Primary. Rodria Auguiste scored a consolation goal for T.N. Kirnon Primary.

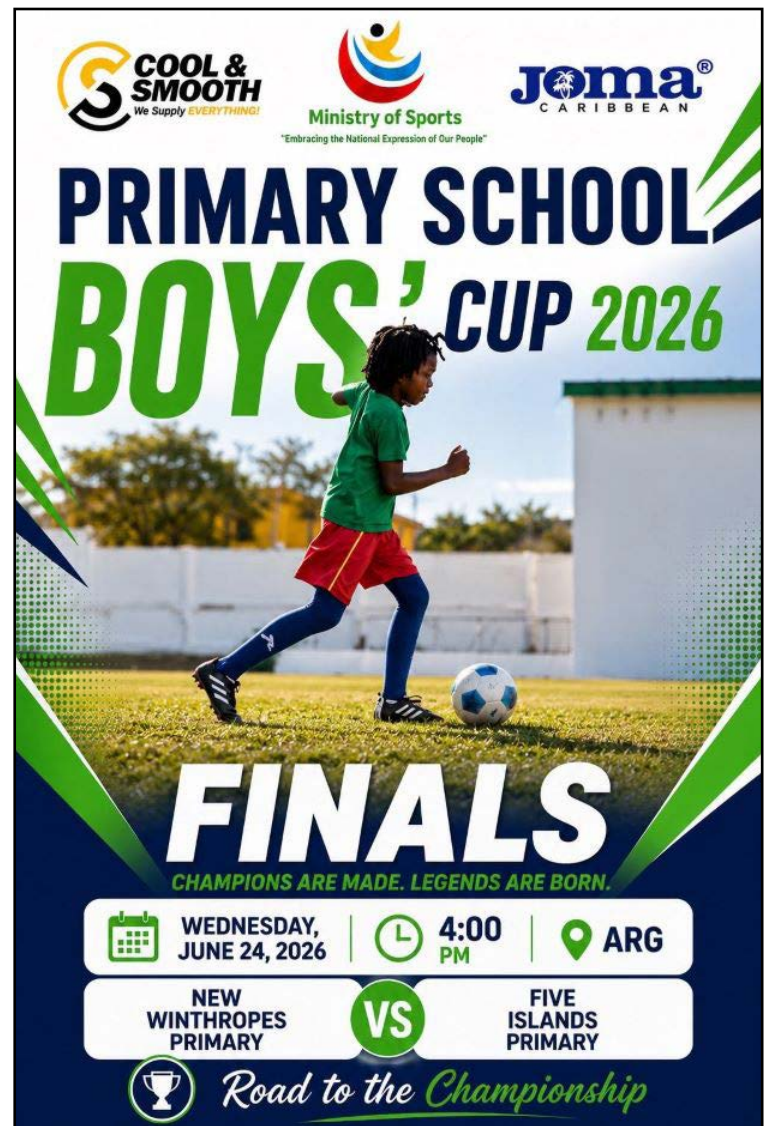
Five Islands and New Winthropes primary schools will clash in the final at 4 pm.

But there will not be a playoff for third place by the two losing semi-finalists. Instead, both J.T. Ambrose and T.N. Kirnon primary schools will receive a semi-finalists trophy.

The boys' final will be preceded by the title decider for the Girls' Primary School Football Cup title. Bendals and New Winthropes will clash in Girls' Primary School Football Cup final at 3 pm.

Both teams booked their spots in the championship final by securing contrasting wins in their respective semi-finals at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Wednesday, June 17.

Bendals Primary pulled off a 4-0 drubbing of JT



The poster features logos for COOL & SMOOTH, Ministry of Sports, and JOMA CARIBBEAN. The text reads: PRIMARY SCHOOL BOYS' CUP 2026 FINALS. CHAMPIONS ARE MADE. LEGENDS ARE BORN. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026 4:00 PM ARG. NEW WINTROPES PRIMARY VS FIVE ISLANDS PRIMARY. Road to the Championship.

Ambrose Primary, while New Winthropes Primary secured their spot in the final by snatching a 2-1 win against Buckley's Primary in a penalty shootout.

The keenly contested semi-final was forced to be decided via the penalty shootout after both teams

fought to a goalless draw at the end of regulation.

Similar to the boys' competition, there will not be a playoff for third place by the two losing semi-finalists. Instead, both J.T. Ambrose and Buckley's primary schools will receive a semi-finalists trophy.