

# Eight Antiguanans Rescued After Boat Begins Sinking Off Coast

Story on page 2

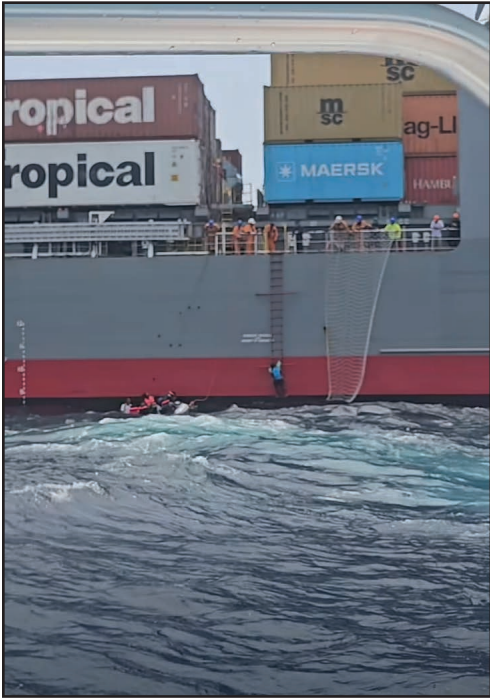


Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene ( second from left) and High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill ( second from right) with members of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council in London on Monday

# Local News



## Eight Antiguanans Rescued After Boat Begins Sinking Off Coast



Eight Antiguanans were safely rescued Monday morning after the vessel they were travelling aboard began taking on water while returning to Antigua from St. Kitts.

The passengers were approximately 19 miles off the coast of Antigua when the boat became distressed and started to sink.

Owner of Aventure Antigua, Eli Fuller, responded after receiving reports of

the emergency. Upon arriving at the scene, Fuller observed the passengers attempting to climb aboard a nearby vessel after abandoning their stricken boat.

Fuller and his team assisted the eight passengers onto the Aventure Antigua vessel before transporting them safely back to Antigua.

The rescue operation was also supported by the Antigua and Barbuda

Search and Rescue (ABSAR) team and the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard, both of which played key roles in ensuring the passengers' safe return.

Although shaken by the ordeal, all eight passengers escaped without injury.

The circumstances surrounding the vessel taking on water were not immediately known.

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## Foreign Minister Greene Visits the UK for CHOGM 2026 Preparatory Meetings

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene, who also serves as Chair of the National Task Force for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, on Monday paid a courtesy call on Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretary-General at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

Minister Greene is in London to chair the Commonwealth Preparatory Committee Meetings, scheduled from 30th June to 3rd July 2026 at Marlborough House, where member states will engage in substantive discussions on the Zero Draft Communiqué and key agenda items for CHOGM 2026.

Secretary-General Botchwey welcomed Minister Greene and reaffirmed the Secretariat's commitment to working closely with Antigua and Barbuda to deliver a successful and consequential Summit. Discussions focused on the upcoming preparatory meetings and strategies to shape an impactful Zero Draft document that reflects the priorities and aspirations of the Commonwealth's 56 member states.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to review ongoing preparations for CHOGM 2026 in St. John's, including programme structures for the official forums and wider logistical planning. Minister Greene shared encouraging updates on accommodation preparations, noting that the accommodations committee is currently engaging 37 countries, signaling



*Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene (right) and Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretary-General*

strong interest and participation ahead of the Summit.

Minister Greene was accompanied by Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill; Minister Counsellor, Chantal Phillip; and Second Secre-

tary, Brent Scotland.

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

## Antigua and Barbuda Hosts Commonwealth Leaders Lunch Ahead of CHOGM 2026

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London, the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC), and the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI) convened a Commonwealth Leaders Lunch in London as preparations continue for the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM 2026, to be held in St. John's from 1-4 November 2026.

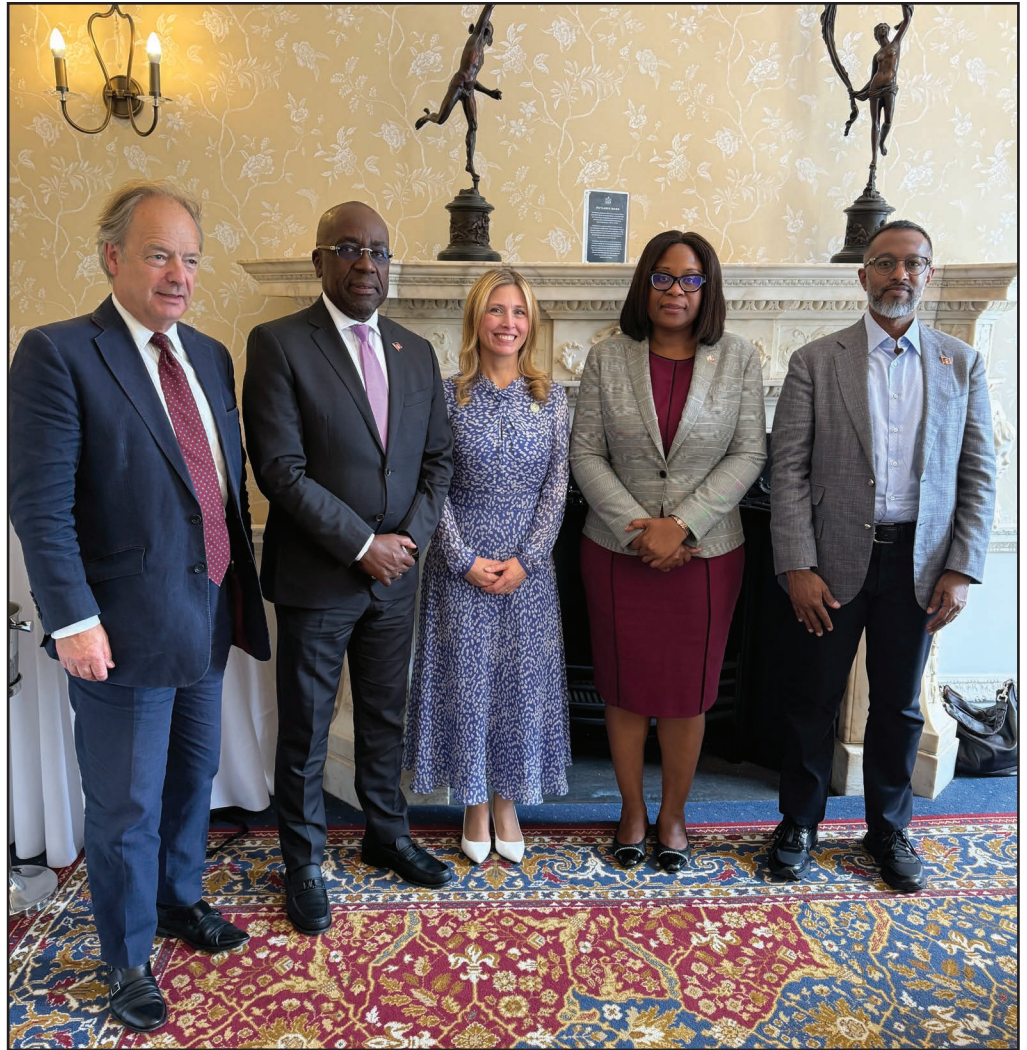
The luncheon brought together Commonwealth partners, business leaders and key supporters of Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of CHOGM 2026, with a particular focus on the Commonwealth Business Forum and the investment and partnership opportunities it will advance.

The event opened with welcome remarks by Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, followed by remarks from the Honourable E. Paul Chet Greene, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration and Chair of the CHOGM 2026 Task Force.

Also in attendance was Theon Ali, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the State of Qatar and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda in the United Arab Emirates. Brent Scotland, Second Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London, was also present.

In his remarks, Minister Greene thanked Lord Swire KCMG PC, Deputy Chairman of CWEIC, and Jennifer Jordan-Saifi, MVO, Chief Executive Officer of SMI, for their support of the gathering and their continued engagement with Antigua and Barbuda's CHOGM preparations.

Minister Greene highlighted the CHOGM 2026 theme, "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth," noting that it reflects the importance of



strengthening partnerships among governments, investors, businesses and multilateral institutions to support inclusive and sustainable development across the Commonwealth.

He also emphasised that, while Antigua and Barbuda will be the smallest country to host CHOGM, the country's ambition remains significant. The Minister pointed to Antigua and Barbuda's growing economy, strategic location and favourable investment climate, while encouraging partners to look closely at opportunities across key sectors, including tourism, infrastructure, healthcare, energy, artificial intelligence, and the blue, green and orange economies.

The Commonwealth Business Forum

was a central focus of the luncheon. Minister Greene noted that the Forum will be aimed at connecting businesses with decision-makers, identifying practical investment opportunities, and supporting prosperity across the Commonwealth.

The luncheon concluded with votes of thanks from Jennifer Jordan-Saifi, MVO, CEO of SMI, and Lord Swire KCMG PC, Deputy Chairman of CWEIC.

Antigua and Barbuda looks forward to welcoming Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, business leaders, civil society, young people, women and faith-based leaders to St. John's in November for CHOGM 2026.

## Social Transformation Minister Says His Motivation Is Improving People's Lives

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner, said helping people improve their housing situation and in the process improving the quality of their life are some of what motivates him on a daily basis.

The minister's comments came as the government continues its programme of home improvement for a segment of the society which ordinarily does not have the wherewithal to improve their housing situation.

"The first time I stood in front of this home, I was overcome with emotion. I could not believe that children were waking up, going to bed, and trying to build their dreams in conditions like these.

"It broke my heart. In that moment, I wasn't just looking at an old house. I was looking at a family that deserved so much better. No child should have to grow up believing that this is all life has to offer," the minister said in a social media post following the latest refurbished house that is about to be handed over to a deserving family.

"Today, these photos remind me why public service matters. They remind me that real leadership is about changing lives, restoring hope, and giving families a reason to believe in tomorrow."

According to Minister Turner this HAPPI project is still underway, but it is already transforming the lives of 30 individuals. "I am humbled and proud to be part of a government that does not turn away from hardship, but instead reaches into our communities with compassion, proving through every HAPPI project that we care deeply about the people of Antigua and Barbuda," he stated.




  
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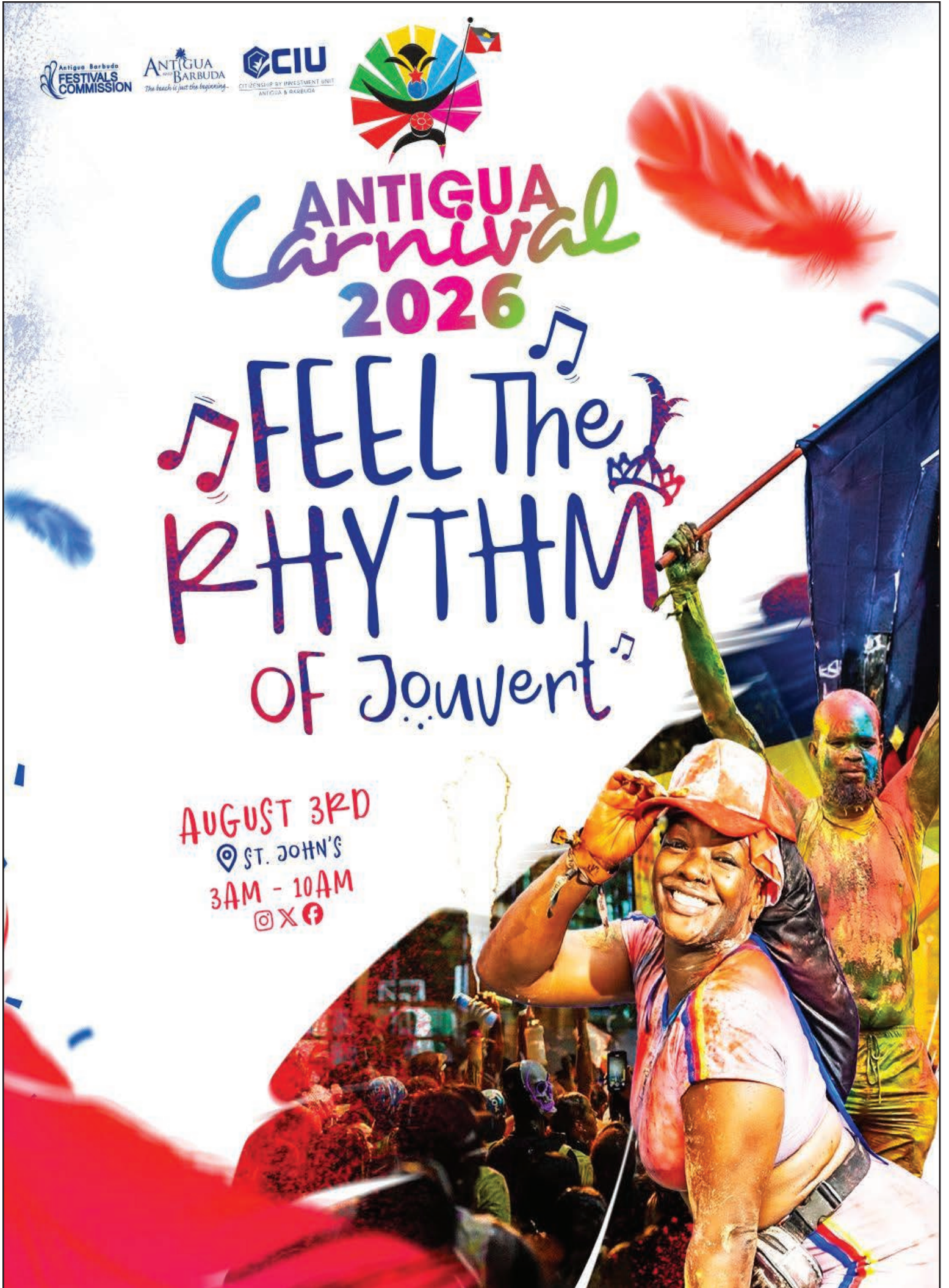




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## National Security Planning Committee To Hold CHOGM-Related Security Exercise



The National Security Planning Committee for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will collaborate with several key security and emergency response agencies, to conduct a three-day national security exercise, Exercise STRONGHOLD, from Wednesday, July 8 to Friday, July 10, 2026.

The exercise forms part of the ongoing preparations for the hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda

in November this year.

It is designed to test and strengthen the country's security readiness, emergency response capabilities, inter-agency coordination, and operational effectiveness.

Throughout the three-day exercise, members of the security forces and emergency services will conduct convoy movements and operational activities along several major roads and strategic locations across the island. As a result, motorists and members of the public should expect temporary road closures, traffic diversions, and restricted access in certain areas

The areas expected to be affected include:

- Roads leading to the American University of Antigua (AUA) and hotels located in the northern section of the island.
- ▶ Sir George Walter Highway
- ▶ Sir Sydney Walling Highway
- ▶ Old Parham Road
- ▶ Friars Hill Road
- ▶ Streets and businesses surrounding the Antigua and Barbuda National Performing Arts Centre (formerly the Deluxe Cinema).

Additionally, vehicular access will be restricted within sections of the city of St. John's. The designated security zone will extend from Newgate Street in the

north to New Street in the south, and from Parliament Drive in the east to Corn Alley in the west.

Pedestrian movement will also be regulated within the designated exercise areas. Police officers and other security personnel will be strategically deployed along the routes to assist motorists, direct traffic, and ensure the safe and orderly movement of both vehicles and pedestrians.

The public is strongly encouraged to plan their travel in advance and allow additional time for their daily commute during the period of the exercise. Motorists are asked to comply with all traffic diversions, road signs, and instructions given by police officers and other authorized personnel.

Residents are also encouraged to monitor official media platforms for further updates and advisories leading up to and during the exercise.

The CHOGM National Security Planning Committee sincerely regrets any inconvenience these temporary measures may cause and thanks the public for its patience, understanding, and full cooperation as Antigua and Barbuda continues its preparations to successfully host this important international event.

## Kendra Beazer: Barbuda's Future Lies in Unity, Not Separation

Newly appointed Government Senator Kendra Beazer used his maiden address in the Senate on Monday to pledge his commitment to representing Barbuda with integrity while explaining his departure from the Barbuda People's Movement (BPM), saying he could no longer support the party's stance on secession.

Addressing the Upper House for the first time, Beazer expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Gaston Browne for entrusting him with the responsibility of serving as Barbuda's representative in the Senate.

"I do not take this responsibility lightly," he said. "Rather, I accept it with humility, diligence, and a steadfast commitment to represent the people of Barbuda with integrity, diligence, and purpose."

Beazer acknowledged his previous affiliation with the Barbuda People's Movement but said his political views evolved as he became convinced that the island's future lies in national unity rather than separation.

"I decided to leave because I could not in good conscience support the principles of secession, nor could I support an agenda that I find to be contrary to the progress and long-term development of Barbuda," he told fellow senators. "My decision was not guided by convenience, rather by conviction."

He said he remains committed to



"unity, progress, and policies that advance the best interests of all people of Antigua and Barbuda."

During his address, Beazer paid tribute to former Barbudan representatives Ruben James, Arthur Nibbs and Knacyntar Nedd-Charles, saying each had made significant contributions to public life and helped shape the political foundation upon which he now serves.

He also thanked his father, Alvin Tyrone Beazer, for his guidance and support, describing him as a major influence in his life.

Reflecting on his political journey, Beazer remarked that while some may believe he had "strayed" politically, he

now feels he has returned home.

"I stand before you today with clarity of purpose and renewed conviction. I am grateful to be home, and I am ready to serve from a place of truth, loyalty, and purpose," he said.

The senator also highlighted his academic and professional achievements, outlining a career that has taken him from Antigua State College to the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, where he earned a degree in Management and International Business. He later served on the Barbuda Council, chairing both the Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries Committee and the Energy and Utilities Committee.

Beazer subsequently earned a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a Master's Degree in Environmental Policy in the United States before continuing his studies at the University of Oxford, where he obtained a degree in Sustainable Urban Development, becoming the first Barbudan to gain admission to the prestigious institution.

His professional experience also includes mentoring at-risk youth in Leicester, England, consulting for the United Nations Office for Project Services with Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment and lecturing in Business and Management at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.



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## Senator Kirwan Urges Psychological Support for Families of Fatal Accident Victims

Independent Senator Jamilla Kirwan has called for psychological support for relatives of people killed in fatal accidents.

It is among a number of suggestions she proffered for government to consider as it relates to the Fatal Accidents Bill 2026, which was passed in the Senate on Monday without amendments.

According to the independent legislator, while the financial provisions for grieving families are wholesome, consideration should be given to the emotional toll they will endure when such incidents occur, adding psychosocial support is another layer of support that can be provided by the government.

“The sudden loss of a loved one, particularly a parent, a spouse, or a child, can have profound psychological effects on those left behind. Children especially, may struggle to process this trauma and without appropriate grief support, the grief can affect them emotionally, education-wise and their overall development in years to come,” Senator Kirwan argued.

She told fellow Senators a number of extenuating circumstances can stand in the way of grieving families struggling to cope with their loss. However, government can cushion those negative impacts if mechanisms are put in place that cater to their emotional and



psychological needs.

“If we wish to advance as a nation that takes mental health seriously, then we must also have the conversations or continue the conversation about accessible and affordable grief counselling and psychological support for families, particularly children, who are left to navigate unimaginable loss, especially where families do not have the financial means to access these services on their own.”

Senator Kirwan suggested further that such support should also be extended to those who are responsible for causing accidents, acknowledging it may be an unpopular decision, but

necessary components in healing and rehabilitation.

Equally important, she posited, is public education – citizens and residents knowing how the laws of Antigua and Barbuda provides work for them.

“I therefore encourage that following the passage of this bill, consideration be given to public awareness initiatives or campaigns, so that those who may one day need the protection of this legislation are informed, and they’re better able to access the justice that this Parliament intends.”

Recently, during the committee stage in the House of Representatives, lawmakers agreed to increase the maximum bereavement award from \$ 5,000 as outlined in the centuries-old law to \$20,000, with courts retaining the authority to determine the appropriate amount in individual cases. Senator Jamilla Kirwan has suggested that the award be reviewed periodically “so that it continues to reflect economic realities and does not, overtime, become outdated”.

She also wants to see an end to lengthy legal proceedings when dealing with claims under the legislation, which in her opinion, will augur well for claimants and the judicial system in the administration of justice.


 An advertisement for Curry House restaurant. The background shows a variety of colorful Indian dishes in small bowls. The text is overlaid on the image.
 

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## Health Minister, Nurses Association Hold 'Fruitful' Discussions

The Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment, and Civil Service Affairs, Michael Joseph, on Monday met with the executive members of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association as part of the Ministry's ongoing engagement with key healthcare stakeholders.

The meeting provided an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on matters of mutual interest and reaffirmed the shared commitment of both the Ministry and the Association to maintaining a collaborative working relationship in support of the nursing profession and the continued delivery of quality healthcare services.

Minister Joseph welcomed the opportunity to engage with the Association's leadership and underscored the importance of maintaining open communication and strong partnerships across the healthcare sector.

"Our nurses are the backbone of the healthcare system, and I value the opportunity to engage directly with the



Association's leadership. By working together in a spirit of openness and mutual respect, we can continue to strengthen our healthcare services and create an environment where our nurses feel supported and empowered to deliver the highest standard of care," Minister Joseph said.

The discussions reflected a shared commitment to continued engagement, mutual respect, and collaboration, setting the stage for ongoing dialogue between the Ministry and the Association on matters affecting the nursing profession and the broader healthcare sector.

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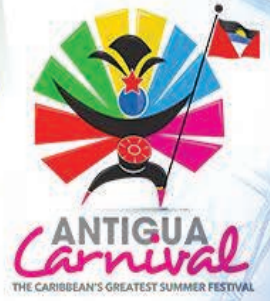
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## Implementing on the Global Governance Initiative, Advancing a More Just and Equitable Global Governance System



**Authored by H.E Jiang Wei, Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda**

On June 17, 2026, China released a white paper titled “More Just and Equitable Global Governance: China’s Principles, Proposals and Actions.” I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the principles and proposals to our friends in Antigua and Barbuda.

Our world has entered an era marked by profound change on a scale unseen in a century. The pursuit of peace and development remains a daunting challenge. Geopolitical tensions are intensifying, with armed conflicts erupting in multiple regions. Global economic fragmentation is exacerbating, significantly hindering development. New challenges are arising in quick succession, with multiple crises intertwining and accumulating. Unilateralism and hegemonism have inflicted profound harm, by flagrantly violating international law and the basic norms governing international relations. De-globalization and protectionism are on the rise, while economic and trade issues are being politicized, instrumentalized, and weaponized. The current global governance system has become

increasingly incompatible and misaligned with the realities of today and the evolving international landscape, and its shortcomings and deficiencies are growing ever more pronounced. The times call for a model of global governance that is more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable, and more Global South voices need to be heard.

In September 2025, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), offering the Chinese solution to the two pressing questions of the era: what kind of global governance system should be established, and how global governance can be reformed and improved. Upon its introduction, it swiftly gained support from nearly 160 countries and international organizations, with over 60 countries join-

ing the Group of Friends of Global Governance.

Staying committed to sovereign equality is the foremost premise of global governance. All countries, regardless of size, strength or wealth, shall have their sovereignty and dignity respected and have the right to participate in, make decisions in and benefit from the global governance process as equals. Staying committed to international rule of law is the fundamental safeguard for global governance. Only a global governance system that is grounded in the rule of law can provide all countries with a fair and just environment for development and make international order more just and equitable. Staying committed to multilateralism is the basic pathway of global governance. Countries

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should stick to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, should be steadfast in safeguarding the central role of the United Nations, and should be firm in promoting multilateral dialogue, consultation, and cooperation. Staying committed to the people-centered approach is the underpinning value of global governance. The people of all nations are the fundamental actors in global governance, and their well-being is its ultimate benefit. It must seek improvement through reforms in order to inspire, among peoples of all countries, a greater sense of fulfillment, safety and well-being. Staying committed to real results is an important principle of global governance. Effective global governance is essentially one that resolves real problems.

China is not only an advocate of the GGI, but also a firm practitioner. Committed to common security, China takes an active part in UN peacekeeping operations as the second largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget and the largest troop contributor among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. And China has pioneered the use of a unique Chinese approach to addressing international flashpoints. Committed to openness and cooperation, China has promoted trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, bringing broader opportunities to the world with higher-standard opening up and achieving solid progress in deepening high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Committed to fairness and justice, China has promoted the historic expansion of BRICS and the growth of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), supported the African Union's membership in the G20, proposed and advanced an initiative for open and inclusive Global South cooperation, implemented the eight measures in support of Global South cooperation, assisting the Global South in jointly embarking on a path towards modernization. Com-

mitted to solidarity and collaboration, China has initiated and led the creation of the International Organization for Mediation, filling a gap in the international mediation mechanism. It has convened the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations and the Ancient Civilizations Forum, promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. It has established the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, and put forward the Global Initiative on Data Security and the Global AI Governance Initiative, promoting the improvement of governance rules for new domains.

Global governance is like a boat to sail upstream; to not forge ahead is to be driven back. The world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation. Now, more than ever, the world needs to revitalize multilateralism, uphold the rule of law, and ensure more efficient governance. China stands ready to work hand in hand with Antigua and Barbuda to enhance multilateral cooperation and implement the initiative under the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, jointly building a more just and equitable global governance system.

## NOTICE

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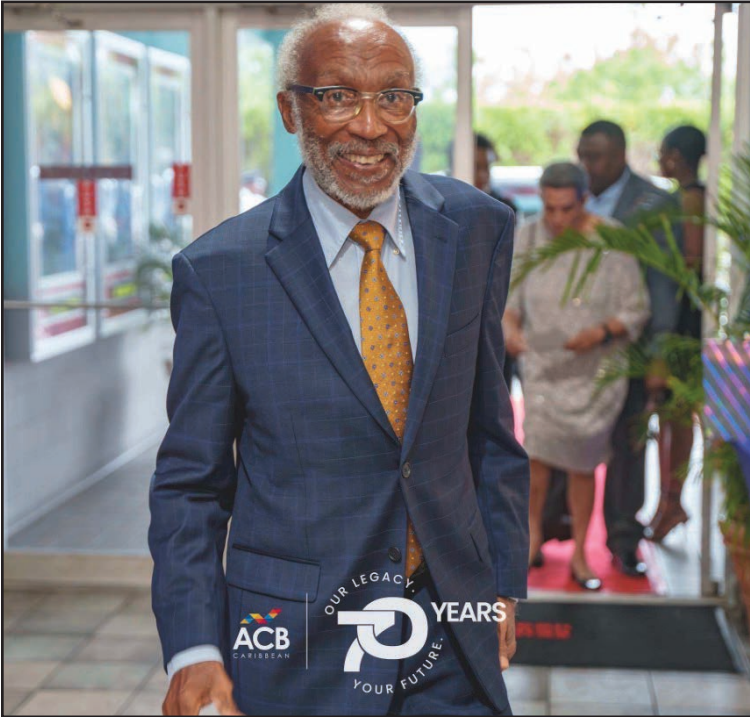
**"J'YANZ ICECREAM SNACKETTE"**

**I, Roderick Cochrane of Gilpin's Avenue, Saint Johns, Antigua Proprietor of J'YANZ ICECREAM SNACKETTE GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next session to be held at the Magistrate's Court, St John's, Antigua on the 06th day of July 2026, next ensuring for a Bottle license in respect of the premises known as "J'YANZ ICECREAM SNACKETTE" situated at Potters Main Road ( next to George Locksmith Services) in the state of Antigua and Barbuda pursuant to Section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992, Revised Edition.**

**Dated the 25th day of June , 2026**

.....  
**Roderick Cochrane**  
**268-464-7809**

# Documentary Film Celebrates 70 Years of ACB Caribbean



The premiere of *Forward with Purpose: 70 Years of ACB Caribbean* marks a significant milestone in the bank's history, celebrating seven decades of service, growth, and commitment to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

The documentary reflects on ACB Caribbean's journey—from its early years to becoming a trusted financial institution—while looking ahead to the future.

It honours the people, partnerships, and achievements that have shaped the bank over the past 70 years.

Chairman of the Board, Sandra Derrick, describes the documentary as more than a look back:

"The presentation you are about to see offers a reflection on that journey. It highlights some of the experiences, achievements, and aspirations that have helped define ACB Caribbean over the years.

"Most importantly, it reminds us that while seventy years is an im-



portant milestone, it is also a foundation upon which future generations will continue to build."

The documentary also highlights how banking has evolved, particularly through changing customer expectations. General Manager Jo-



anna Charles reflects on that transformation:

“Perhaps the most significant change over the past seventy years has been the customer.

There was a time when banking was viewed almost as a privilege. Customers came to the bank, operated within banking hours, and accepted the services and channels available to them. The institution largely shaped the relationship.

Today, the customer is firmly at the center of banking.

Customers now expect convenience, speed, security, accessibility, and service designed around their needs. They want to bank where, when, and how they choose.

These expectations continue to evolve, requiring us to evolve with them.

That is what makes this unveiling so meaningful. It reminds us that Forward with Purpose is more than a title; it is how we must continue to think, serve, and grow.”

Forward with Purpose is both a cel-

bration of ACB Caribbean’s legacy and a reminder that its greatest strength lies in its ability to evolve.

As the bank marks 70 years, the documentary reinforces its commitment to building on a strong foundation while continuing to serve customers with purpose for generations to come.



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## UWI issues warning regarding fraudulent website



The University of the West Indies (UWI) is advising prospective students, partners and the public of the existence of an unauthorised website which is falsely purporting to be affiliated with the institution.

According to the university, in a press release on Monday, this website is not endorsed, affiliated with, or authorised by UWI and appears to be using the university's name and branding without permission, while misrepresenting a relationship with the institution.

“The university also advises that the fraudulent website contains a personal data capture form. As this is not an official UWI website, it must be underscored that any data submitted such as name, email address, telephone number, or any other personal information via that site is not received by the UWI,” it added.

Individuals who may have been affected by the misrepresentation are being advised to exercise increased caution regarding any follow-up communications claiming to be from the UWI.

“They should refrain from sharing additional personal or financial information in response to unsolicited messages and verify all communications exclusively through official university channels,” the university said.

Prospective students and stakeholders are being reminded that all legitimate information regarding the UWI's programmes, admissions processes and partnerships is available only through official University platforms, including:

— Mona Campus, Jamaica via <https://www.mona.uwi.edu>

— St Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago via <https://sta.uwi.edu>

— Cave Hill Campus, Barbados via <https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu>

— Five Islands Campus, Antigua and Barbuda via <https://www.fiveislands.uwi.edu>

— Global Campus via <https://www.global.uwi.edu>

— Institutional Website, Regional Headquarters via <https://www.uwi.edu>

The university said it has initiated a coordinated response that includes reporting the matter to relevant international cyber and law enforcement authorities, pursuing legal and technical measures to have the website removed, and engaging partners to mitigate potential impact.

Individuals who may have interacted with the website or have relevant information are being urged to contact the university at: [oadmin@uwi.edu](mailto:oadmin@uwi.edu). (Jamaica Observer)

## Tributes pour in for Oscar B... Singer dies hours before benefit concert

THE music fraternity is mourning the loss of celebrated soca artiste Oscar “Oscar B” Benjamin, who died yesterday morning, hours before a benefit concert organised to support his medical recovery.

Oscar B, 57, of Signal Hill, Tobago, suffered a stroke in May. The Tobago Family and Friends Healing Concert, scheduled for the Shaw Park Cultural Complex last evening, had been organised to support his medical recovery.

The Division of Tourism, Antiquities and Creative Industries under the Tobago House of Assembly confirmed that the concert would proceed as planned but would now serve as a tribute to Benjamin’s life and contributions to Caribbean culture. Following the news of his death, tributes from the music fraternity, Government officials and the wider community flowed in.

In a release yesterday, the Ministry of Culture and Community Development described him as “a cherished son of Tobago and a celebrated ambassador of our culture”.

It noted that Benjamin discovered his love for music through church choir singing before beginning his professional career with the Signal Hill Alumni Choir in 1982.

Minister of Culture and Community Development Michelle Benjamin paid tribute to the late artiste, saying, “Oscar B dedicated his life to sharing the gift of music, bringing joy to audiences and proudly representing To-



bago wherever he performed. It is especially heart-breaking that he passed away less than 24 hours before the scheduled Tobago Family & Friends Healing Concert, an event organised by those who loved and admired him to support his recovery following his recent illness. While he may not have witnessed that extraordinary outpouring of affection, it stands as a lasting testament to the lives he touched and the deep respect he earned throughout his career.”

Veteran soca artiste Austin “Super-Blue” Lyons was among those expressing condolences on social media.

“Waking up to sad news this morning hearing my dear Friend Oscar B pass

away. May you fly with the angels above until we meet again. Always enjoy watching your performance. You will be missed. Rest in Peace,” he said in a post.

Signal Hill Secondary School also posted a tribute remembering Benjamin as “more than a gifted singer and entertainer” and praised him as “a living legend”.

Former tourism, culture and the arts minister, Randall Mitchell, also expressed condolences in a post yesterday, stating, “Oscar, boy we had some really good moments. Thank you for the entertainment and the performances, always. Fly high and rest in eternal peace.” (Trinidad Express)



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# Regional News



## GRIM FINDS - At least 14 body discoveries and death investigations identified across Jamaica in June

Within days of each other, Jamaicans have been confronted with a series of grim discoveries: decomposed bodies in rivers, bushes and remote communities; skeletal remains hidden in vegetation; and victims whose disappearances ended in tragedy.

The incidents, recorded across several parishes during June, unfolded even as the island continued to record relatively low weekly murder figures, highlighting a lesser-known aspect of policing in which cases are initially classified as “decomposed body found”, “skeletal remains found”, “body found” or “death investigation” while investigators determine identity, cause of death, and whether a criminal offence has been committed.

A review by The Gleaner of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) weekly reports covering much of June, together with official reports and independently verified news reports, identified at least 14 body discoveries and death investigations across the island.

The review is not presented as a complete record of every body recovered during the month, but illustrates the geographic spread and frequency of the cases documented during the period.

Among the most disturbing was the case of 12-year-old Christal McLean, who was reported missing on



June 12 before her body, in an advanced state of decomposition, was discovered in the Rio Grande at Grants Level in Portland on June 17.

The discovery sent shock waves through the parish and prompted renewed calls for justice.

“Portland mourns. A family mourns. A community mourns,” Portland Eastern Member of Parliament Isat Buchanan said, as he called for a thorough investigation into the child’s death and urged anyone with information to assist investigators.

Just days earlier, another missing person’s case had ended in tragedy when the body of Kedesia McLeod, who had been reported missing from Manchester, was found in the Peppers

area of St Elizabeth after a farmer heading to his property stumbled upon her partially decomposed remains.

Police said she had last been seen with her boyfriend, 50-year-old Maurice Fennell, who later died by suicide in St Ann.

The June review also identified a succession of other body discoveries.

On June 2, the decomposing body of a 60-year-old man was found inside his home in Four Paths, Clarendon.

On June 6, workers discovered the body of a man at the Retirement Landfill in St James.

On June 9, the decomposing body of a 68-year-old man was found at his home in Golden Grove, Claremont, St Ann.

A day later, the police were called to Gray’s Hill Close in Mandeville, where 72-year-old Primrose Hall, who had been reported missing three days earlier, was found face down inside a barrel.

On June 18, investigators launched a probe after the torso of a male was found in vegetation along the Aberdeen/Quick Step Road in Siloah, St Elizabeth.

Three days later, another fully decomposed male body was discovered in a remote area near the Santa Cruz Police Station in St Elizabeth.

The review also identified skeletal remains discovered in the Content district of Askenish, Hanover, on June 25.

The police have not officially confirmed the identity of the remains, although speculation has linked the discovery to a man who disappeared several years ago. Investigators have not publicly established that connection.

The incidents occurred in rivers, bushes, homes, gullies, remote communities, landfill sites and heavily vegetated areas, with some of the discoveries made by farmers, residents, sanitation workers, and passers-by going about their daily routines.

The cases also illustrate why official murder figures can change after they are first published.

The police have previously explained that some deaths initially recorded as “body found” or “death investigation” are only reclassified as murders after forensic examinations and criminal investigations establish that a homicide occurred. Those cases are then added to the official murder statistics.

That distinction was evident during one reporting period, June 14-20, when Jamaica recorded eight murders for the week while several body discoveries remained under investigation and therefore were not reflected in the homicide tally.

The discoveries have also renewed attention on Jamaica’s unresolved missing persons cases, even though a portion are ultimately found.

According to the JCF’s missing persons website, dozens of people remain listed as missing.

While the current status of every case could not be independently verified, the listings underscore the uncertainty faced by families searching for loved ones.

Among the island’s most high-profile cases is that of Manchester High School student Jayden Smith, who has now been missing for nine months.

On Saturday, relatives, friends and supporters marched through the streets of Mandeville, renewing calls for anyone with information to come forward.

Speaking to TVJ News, Jayden’s mother, Andrene

Peart, described the emotional toll of living without answers.

“I just can’t give up hope that my son will be found,” she said. “Sleepless nights... I can’t eat sometimes because in my mind he’s still out there. I just believe he’s out there. So anyone who has any information, please visit the nearest police station. I miss my son so much.”

Her plea captures the reality confronting many Jamaican families. For some, the search for a missing loved one ends with the discovery of human remains. For others, the search continues, sustained by hope that answers will one day come.

“My sister went missing in West Rural St Andrew, before COVID and we have never seen her since. We hear the stories but nothing ever turn out to be true, where we get a body and could have a burial,” an anonymous person told The Gleaner, while trying not to rehash memories for other relatives, describing it as “one of the hardest thing”.

As investigators continue probing June’s growing list of body discoveries, each case represents more than an entry in a police report.

Behind every discovery is a life lost, a family seeking answers, and a community left grappling with another tragedy.

Investigations into similar discoveries in the months before June are ongoing. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



## Venezuela search teams scramble as hope fades of finding quake survivors



Hopes were fading Monday of finding survivors more than four days after powerful twin earthquakes struck Venezuela, as residents grow increasingly frustrated with the government's response to the disaster that has killed at least 1,450 people and left tens of thousands unaccounted for.

French and American rescue teams found a man and his teen son alive under the rubble on Sunday in Caraballeda, a town about 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Caracas, AFP journalists saw.

The rescue offered a glimmer of hope in an ongoing tragedy that has shaken a country already mired in an economic crisis, but that hope dwindled as the critical 72-hour window for rescuing trapped victims passed.

Millions more people were feared to

lack sanitation and other basic needs after one of Latin America's most devastating earthquake disasters.

Some 774 buildings were badly damaged in back-to-back quakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 that struck on Wednesday evening, including 189 buildings that have totally collapsed, National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez said on Sunday.

AFPTV drone footage from La Guaira, one of the worst-hit areas, showed smoke rising from piles of concrete and debris, where a neighborhood of multistorey buildings once stood.

In the coastal town of Tucacas, rescuers were digging for people trapped in the pancaked layers and rubble of a collapsed building complex.

Luis Salas, 27, who joined the rescue efforts, told AFP that "the hardest part

was when we felt hope in the tunnels we went into — crawling, clearing debris, working with all our heart, with great faith — and when we reached our targets, we found them lifeless."

Experts say the first 72 hours after natural disasters define the narrow window for rescuing the living. After that, the search usually becomes one of recovering bodies.

In the capital's San Bernardino neighborhood, volunteers clambered over a collapsed building, using drills to break up concrete and forming lines to remove rubble by hand.

In Chacao, another area of Caracas, large electronic screens on a building usually used for advertising were showing the faces of missing people.

On Sunday, Rodríguez said the death toll — which was still expected to rise

— had reached 1,450 people, with at least 3,150 others injured.

In the coastal city of La Guaira, Hector Aguilera came to search for four family members buried in the rubble.

“We don’t have the support to get our family out — we can’t do it alone. They are buried there: we know they are dead, but here we are,” he said.

Even as rescue efforts continued, public anger has mounted in some areas.

Eduardo Cardozo, a volunteer in Tucacas, said it was “frustrating” to know that some victims could have been saved “if they’d been searched for in time.”

In La Guaira state’s Tanaguarena area, one man urged soldiers to pick up picks and shovels: “The country needs you. Put down your weapon.”

Outbreaks of looting have hit La Guaira city, much of which now lies in rubble.

Pharmacies, supermarkets and other businesses were ransacked, said residents, some of whom complained of the slow and meager post-quake aid

coming from authorities.

Venezuela’s interim president, Delcy Rodriguez, said on Sunday that temporary camps were being set up for people who had lost their homes.

“At the same time, work begins on planning projects that will allow new homes to be built in a very short time,” she said.

Rodriguez praised rescuers on Sunday, saying “we have rescued people who are still alive, and therefore these efforts will not be suspended.”

“We always hold onto hope.”

Cardozo, the Tucacas volunteer, remained hopeful: “We’re still here waiting. Let’s see if we can get someone else out.”

Twenty-four nations have sent 521 tons of supplies, 86 units with dogs trained to locate people trapped beneath the rubble and more than 2,700 search-and-rescue personnel, according to Rodriguez.

US helicopters ferried in aid, and 230 more US military personnel were arriving to help expand airport capaci-

ty and reopen a key seaport to boost relief efforts, the US Southern Command said.

The United States — which captured Venezuela’s former president Nicolas Maduro in a military raid on Caracas in January — had already sent a 250-strong disaster response team.

The UN migration agency said that based on population and damage data, up to 6.76 million people could be affected, and would require shelter, water, sanitation, healthcare and essential relief items.

Venezuela’s worst earthquakes in more than a century have come after the oil-rich country endured more than a decade of economic collapse.

The crisis has hollowed out hospitals and public services, driving millions to leave the country.

The United Nations estimated \$6.7 billion in physical damage — equivalent to six percent of Venezuela’s GDP. (AFP)

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## Top US court upholds \$5 million Trump sex assault judgment



The United States (US) Supreme Court rejected on Monday Donald Trump’s effort to overturn a jury judgment that he sexually assaulted and defamed E Jean Carroll and must pay

her \$5 million.

The court’s decision not to hear the US president’s challenge was issued as part of a raft of other rulings and contained no reasons.

On May 9, 2023, the federal civil court in Manhattan found Trump liable for a “sexual assault” on the former newspaper columnist in a New York department store in 1996. (AFP)

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## PAHO mobilises emergency health response following earthquakes in Venezuela

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says it has activated its emergency response mechanisms to support the health response in Venezuela following two consecutive earthquakes of 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude that struck the country last week.

“Our thoughts are with everyone affected by these devastating earthquakes,” said PAHO director Dr Jarbas Barbosa. “PAHO stands ready to support the country’s health response during this difficult time.”

PAHO said its teams on the ground are working with national authorities to rapidly assess priority health needs and coordinate actions aimed at saving lives, restoring essential health services and preventing further health impacts.

Rapid response teams are on standby in neighbouring countries, while PAHO’s Regional Strategic Reserve for Emergencies and Disasters, located in Panama, is expediting the deployment of essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment as needed.

The health organisation said it is working with the Ministry of Health in Venezuela to enhance health sector coordination, facilitating joint assessments, mapping operational capacities and engaging with regional partners to mobilise technical assistance and humanitarian supplies.

“Efforts are focused on ensuring continued access to essential health services and addressing the most urgent health needs in affected communities,” PAHO said.

Through its role coordinating the Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Initiative in the Americas, PAHO said it has also identified 21 international emergency medical teams that could support the emergency.

These teams comprise trained health professionals and self-sufficient medical units with extensive experience re-



sponding to earthquake emergencies, PAHO said.

Three teams—from Colombia, the United States and the Dominican Republic—are on standby for rapid deployment, if needed.

From its Emergency Operations Center in Washington, PAHO said it is supporting rapid assessments of health facility functionality and damage while helping identify urgent requirements, including medicines, medical supplies, oxygen, fuel, and other critical resources.

According to PAHO, specialists in emergency coordination, hospital safety, logistics, trauma care, and mass casualty management are ready for deployment.

Initial estimates indicate that 91 emergency hospitals are located in areas of Modified Mercalli earthquake intensity VI or higher, including 20 hospitals in areas of intensity VII or above.

“While the exposure does not represent confirmed damage, they help prioritise facilities requiring urgent verification of structural safety, continuity

of essential services, trauma care capacity, oxygen availability, water and electricity supply, fuel, and referral pathways,” PAHO said.

“In a crisis of this scale, time is of the essence,” said Dr. Ciro Ugarte, PAHO’s director of health emergencies. “Rapid damage and needs assessments, strong coordination, and timely information-sharing and response are essential to ensure that health assistance reaches the people who need it most and is aligned with national priorities.”

PAHO says it will continue working closely with national authorities, United Nations agencies, and humanitarian partners to ensure that the health support reaches the people in need, guided by humanitarian principles.

The organisation says additional financial resources are urgently needed to provide life-saving health interventions, restore damaged health services and address the immediate needs of affected communities, including shelter and food for displaced families. (CMC)

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## Antigua name squad to contest CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Finals

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) has announced the national team that will be contesting the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Finals in Mexico next month.

The 21-member squad will be representing Antigua and Barbuda in the 12-team tournament in Puebla, Mexico, from July 24 to August 9.

The squad includes goalkeepers Tegan Gumbs, Gavin Gonsalves, and Mekhi Phillip. The defenders are Elijah Whyte, Seth Black-Layne, Zidaan Williams, Jordan Francis, Joshua Roache, Ivan Grant, and Jahvaughn Jarvis.

Also included are midfielders Dajari Barthley, Marco Michael, Vaughn Jackson Jr., Sedique Adams, Obediah Browne, Brendan Skilling, Blake Philogene-Bidace, and Jaiden Wray.

Completing the squad are forwards Brandon Satchell, Gregg Williams, and Conroy Browne.

The players will be accompanied by head coach Schyan Jeffers, assistant coaches Donovan Peart and Derrick "Pretty Boy" Edwards, manager Roderick Williams, goalkeeper coach Janiel Simon, and physiotherapist William Richards.

The Antigua and Barbuda contingent will depart on Thursday for St. Lucia, where the team will apply for their visas to travel to Mexico and play a practice match.

They will leave St. Lucia for Barbados, where they will stay overnight before departing for Panama to continue their preparation with two more practice matches. After completing their preparations in Panama, the Antiguanians will depart for Mexico.



*The Antigua and Barbuda team celebrate after winning Group C of the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifiers in Costa Rica on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. (File Photo)*

Antigua and Barbuda qualified for the finals by winning Group C of the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Qualifying Championships in Costa Rica from February 23 to March 4.

The 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Championship Finals include the six top-ranked nations that are pre-qualified directly for the tournament.

The six national teams pre-seeded in the championship are (in ranking order) the United States (1), Mexico (2), Honduras (3), Panama (4), Cuba (5), and Guatemala (6).

The championship will feature the region's 12 best men's under-20 national teams divided into three groups of four.

Antigua and Barbuda will contest

Group B alongside Mexico, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. In Group A are the United States of America, Cuba, El Salvador, and Haiti, while Group C will comprise Jamaica, Panama, Honduras, and Canada.

After round-robin play, the two top teams of each group and the two best third-place teams will advance to a knockout stage, comprised of the quarterfinals, semifinals, and final.

The tournament will also serve as the qualifying competition for both the 2027 FIFA Men's Under-20 World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics.

In the previous edition of the CONCACAF Under-20 Championship, played in Mexico in 2024, Mexico won the title by defeating the United States 2-1 in the final.

## More success for Swetes/Roman Hill in Village Netball League



*The Swetes/Roman Hill female netball team*

Swetes/Roman Hill continued their unbeaten run in the female division of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Antigua Generators and Cool and Smooth Village League on Sunday evening.

Swetes/Roman Hill secured their seventh win in eight matches with a 63-9 drubbing of the Under-16 National Team at the Seatons Netball Court.

Everdine Parker-Barnard converted 26 of her 33 shots, and Jamila Fitz scored 22 of her 32 attempts, and Shermaine Reifer made 15 of her 24 tries for Swetes/Roman Hill.

Tina Graham sank eight of her 13 attempts for the Under-16 National Team, which lost for the fourth time in

seven matches.

Lamin Newton's All Saints United notched up their fourth win in seven matches with a 38-4 thrashing of the Pares Net Masters.

Karol Carlton converted 23 of her 27 shots, and Paula Jackson scored 15 of her 26 attempts for All Saints United.

Annika Watson sank four of her 10 tries for the Pares Net Masters, who ended their campaign second from the bottom of the 10-team standings with their eighth defeat during their quota of nine matches.

The St. John's United Talented Youths also wrapped up their campaign on a losing note. The St. John's United Tal-

ented Youths defaulted to Willikies in their final outing.

It means the St. John's United Talented Youths finished in the cellar and without a win after losing all nine round-robin matches. It was only the second win in seven matches for Willikies.

The ABNA Village League will continue with three more female division matches at the Seatons Netball Court on Tuesday evening.

The Potters Stingers will take on Willikies at 6 pm, the Under-16 National Team will meet Lamin Newton's All Saints Unites at 7 pm, and Seatons Eastsiders will clash with Michael Joseph Gray's Green Flyballers at 8 pm.

# Brazil edge Japan 2-1 at FIFA Men's World Cup



**Brazil's Casemiro (5) celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during the World Cup round of 32 soccer match between Brazil and Japan in Houston, Monday, June 29, 2026. (AP)**

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Brazil survived a World Cup last-32 scare when they fought back to beat Japan 2-1 after Gabriel Martinelli squeezed in a shot at the far post deep in stoppage time on Monday.

Brazil, who will next face Norway or Ivory Coast in New Jersey on Sunday, improved after the break with Japan taking an early lead and shackling the attack of the five-times champions for much of the opening period.

Martinelli's winner in the 95th minute came at the end of a tense match and was the latest winning goal in normal time of a World Cup knockout game since 1966. Brazil players and staff hugged each other on the pitch after the match as the Japanese players watched on in disbelief.

"I can't explain how I feel," Martinelli said. "It'll only really sink in a while. Thank God I managed to

score the goal today. I'm so happy for the team, who gave it their all. I'm lost for words."

Japan's Kaishu Sano stunned Brazil after 29 minutes when he intercepted Danilo's misplaced pass before driving toward goal and rifling a shot past goalkeeper Alisson Becker to send the outnumbered Samurai Blue fans into delirium.

Japan put on a first-half defensive masterclass as they sucked up pressure with defenders flying around the pitch, breaking up passes and closing down space any time a Brazilian player had the ball.

Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti must have said something at halftime as his players came out with a sense of urgency and created a number of chances, pushing forward at a faster pace and loading the box.

"We didn't lose our patience, we had a lot of resources on the pitch and on the bench," Ancelotti said.

"Japan isn't an easy opponent. It's very organised and intense.

"I was saving Neymar for extra time. He was going to enter the pitch on minute 105 if we hadn't scored the second goal. I didn't want to change the structure because the team was playing well."

Brazil, however, did not need their all-time leading scorer and equalised when Casemiro, who had missed a golden

chance moments earlier, outjumped his marker to nod in a far-post header in the 56th minute from a Gabriel Magalhaes cross.

Vinicius Jr looked like he had found the winner when his mazy run ended with Japan goalkeeper Zion Suzuki brilliantly pushing a shot on to the post much to the disbelief of a sea of yellow-clad supporters in the packed stadium.

Japan players regrouped and kept Brazil at bay until Bruno Guimaraes received the ball on the edge of the box before hesitating and then slipping it through to Martinelli who made no mistake with a clinical finish.

The result denied Japan a first-ever World Cup knockout win and Brazil stayed on course to reach the quarter-finals again as they have in every tournament since a last-16 exit in 1990.

## Sinner and Sabalenka answer doubters at Wimbledon



**Jannik Sinner of Italy celebrates winning the men's singles match against Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia during at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Monday, June 29, 2026. (AP)**

LONDON (Reuters) - Men's defending champion Jannik Sinner and women's top seed Aryna Sabalenka both arrived at Wimbledon with question marks hanging over them but answered the doubters on Monday with contrasting first round victories.

Italy's Sinner, playing his first match since his shock collapse to defeat in the second round of the French Open on a boiling day in Paris, was stretched to the limit by Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic but survived, winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-3.

Sabalenka, who left Paris in a "deep, dark place" after losing the last 10 games of her quarter-final against Dina Shnaider, followed Sinner on to Centre Court and breezed past Serbian qualifier Teodora Kostovic 6-2, 6-3.

While world number one Sinner, the overwhelming favourite in the absence of Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, lived to fight another day, there were some

early seeded casualties.

Norway's 11th seed Casper Ruud was handed a tough draw in the shape of big-serving Pole Hubert Hurkacz and duly lost 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(7), while 12th seed Andrey Rublev was edged out in a five-set battle against fellow Russian Roman Safiullin, losing a deciding set tiebreaker 14-12 after missing two match points.

There was heartbreak too for surprise French Open runner-up Maja Chwalinska as she lost 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 to Thai qualifier Mananchaya Sawangkaew on Monday after the Pole fell and hurt herself while on match point.

Several women's seeds moved through on a day mercifully cooler than the heatwave that gripped London last week.

Japan's Naomi Osaka once again dressed to impress, walking on court in a "Kill Bill" inspired white kimono

and her tennis shone too as the 14th seed beat Elsa Jacquemot 6-1, 7-5.

American fourth seed Jessica Pegula beat Darja Vidmanova 7-5, 6-3, while newly crowned French Open champion Mirra Andreeva, seeded five, beat Magda Linette 7-5, 6-4.

Swiss 11th seed Belinda Bencic had far too much experience for young wildcard Mika Stojsavljevic whose defeat was one of many on a miserable day for home players.

It was a grim day for the home nation who failed to celebrate a single victory. Twenty-one players, including 12 wildcards, were in the first-round draw but after Emma Raducanu withdrew with an injury on the eve of the tournament, she was followed on Monday by Jack Draper, who announced he was also pulling out with an arm injury.

Ten British players lost, including British number one Cameron Norrie, seeded 26, beaten in five sets by inspired American qualifier Michael Zheng.

Court One fans expecting to see Raducanu in action were left disappointed as the replacement match saw home hope Harriet Dart beaten by Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko.

Next up was a duel between two more former US Open champions Daniil Medvedev and Marin Cilic, but that fell flat as Cilic was made to look all of his 37 years as eighth seed Medvedev romped to a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 win.

Two of the new men's generation lit up the opening day. Brazil's Joao Fonseca, cheered on by a large contingent of fans in yellow soccer shirts, beat Spanish veteran Roberto Bautista Agut 7-6(4), 6-4, 6-3 before heading off to watch Brazil beat Japan to reach the last-16 at the World Cup.

Rising Spanish teenager Rafael Jodar, also aged 19, made an impressive debut, beating British wildcard Felix Gill 6-3, 6-3, 7-5.

## Whittaker crowned new national cycling champion



**Alexander Whittaker celebrates with his bike after winning the APUA Inet National Individual Time Trial on Saturday, June 27, 2026.**

Alexander Whittaker completed a rare championship double and was crowned the 2026 National Cycling Champion over the weekend. Whittaker, who is based in the United Kingdom, captured the title by winning the Top Ranking National Individual Road Race on Sunday after securing the National Individual Time Trial Championship on Saturday. Whittaker was awarded the title after finishing second in the elite men's class, which was won by Abbiel Fleming, whose nationality is Grenadian and, as such, does not qualify to be the Antiguan national champion. Fleming, riding for Team Pil-

lars Cycling, completed the five laps of the 17.073-kilometer course in a time of two hours, 37 minutes, and 51.25 seconds to finish first. Whittaker, an independent rider, completed the race in a time of two hours, 44 minutes, and 11.17 seconds. Former champion Robert Marsh of East Side Raiders finished third but was upgraded to second place, while Team Pillars Cycling rider Newell Mack, who came in fourth, advanced into third place. Last year's national champion Jyme Bridges and the nation's current top cyclist, Tahje Browne, did not compete in this year's event, which is hosted by the Antigua and

Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF). Whittaker captured the 2026 APUA Inet National Individual Time Trial, winning the elite men's class by completing the 5.37-kilometer course in a time of 23 minutes and 42.71 seconds. Robert Marsh took second place in 24 minutes and 38.07 seconds. Abbiel Fleming came in third place, but Shawn Weathered of Team Pillars Cycling, who finished in fourth place, was elevated to the bronze medal position. In Sunday's road race, Jason Adams of Team Pillars Cycling won the Masters A Class ahead of second-place finisher Miguel Williams of

Team Street.

Vaughn Gomes of Andre Simon Cycling Academy captured the Masters B Class. Independent cyclist Patrick Peters took second place, and Cornell Hughes of Team Pillars Cycling finished in third place.

Lone competitor Elite Thomas of Team Viper won the juvenile class. Kittitian Greyson Burrell, riding for Team Viper, finished first in the cadets 11-14 division.

But Burrell did not qualify to be a national champion; hence, second-place finisher D'Jani Richards was elevated to take the title. Third-place finisher Benjamin Carr of Team Viper was also upgraded to take second place.

Tiger Tyson of Team Viper won the Sports Class ahead of Eldon Farquharson of Team Street in second place and independent cyclist Dexter Simmons in third place.

In Saturday's Individual Time Trial, Aiofe Smith won the female elite title, Elite Thomas captured the juvenile division, and Benjamin Carr secured the crown in the Cadets 11-14 category.

Tiger Tyson prevailed in the sports class, once again beating Eldon Farquharson and Dexter Simmons.

The Masters A Class was captured by Jason Adams, Miguel Williams finished second, and Timothy Thomas came in third.

Paul Smith won the Masters B Class ahead of Vaughn Gomes and Cornell Hughes.