

Antigua and Barbuda Welcomes Agreement on Artificial Intelligence

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Health Minister Michael Joseph (foreground) participates in a workshop led by the Ministry of Finance for senior officials of the Ministry of Health to discuss the preparation of the annual budget estimates that are submitted to the Ministry of Finance

Antigua and Barbuda Welcomes Agreement On A Governance Framework for Artificial Intelligence

Antigua and Barbuda has indicated that it welcomes the signing of the historic agreement establishing the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO) that took place in Shanghai, China, this week.

Antigua and Barbuda's National Focal Point on AI, Crown Counsel, Andrea Jacobs, is attending the 2026 World AI Conference & High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in China where she delivered the national statement on the AI Governance issue.

"In this spirit of international cooperation, Antigua and Barbuda welcomes the signing of the historic agreement establishing the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) right here in Shanghai. We commend WAICO's stated alignment with the United Nations Charter and its focus on a people-centered approach. For developing states, such open-source, collaborative platforms are vital to ensuring we are active participants in shaping AI's future, rather than mere passive consumers," she declared.

She added that through the UNESCO AI Readiness Assessment and collaboration with the University of the West Indies, Antigua and Barbuda is laying the foundation for responsible, human centered AI.

"However, national efforts alone cannot withstand a fragmented global ecosystem. We need meaningful international partnerships.

"Therefore, Antigua and Barbuda reaffirms its unwavering support for the United Nations process on global AI governance. Having actively participated in the negotiations that established both the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on AI and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, we remain committed to a multilateral, science-based framework," Jacobs remarked.

According to the AI Focal Point Antigua and Barbuda highly commended



National AI Focal Point, Crown Counsel, Andrea Jacobs



Delegates attending this week's 2026 World AI Conference and High Level Meeting on Global AI Governance (Chinese President Xi Jinping is standing at the centre in blue suit)

the Preliminary Report of the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI. Its objective, evidence-based assessment provides Member States with a credible foundation to develop effective national guardrails while contributing to coherent international standards.

Jacobs made the point that for frontier technologies to safely flourish, the world urgently needs a cohesive, universal system of global AI governance. Without clear international guardrails, vulnerable nations risk facing severe digital exclusion, algorithmic bias, and exposure to unregulated risks that they lack the domestic capacity to mitigate.

"Effective global governance is not an abstract bureaucratic exercise; it is an economic and existential shield for small states. When governed equitably, AI possesses an unparalleled capacity to transform SIDS.

"It offers powerful, actionable tools to strengthen disaster preparedness, modernize public administration, expand healthcare access, and support climate resilience in the face of rising sea levels. Yet, for the Caribbean and the wider Global South, these impacts will remain out of reach if a fragmented global landscape leaves us behind," she emphasized.

Ministry of Health Launches Budget Preparation Process with Strategic Planning Session



The Ministry of Health has commenced its internal budget preparation process with a strategic planning session designed to equip senior management with the tools and guidance necessary to develop comprehensive and results-driven budget submissions for the upcoming fiscal year.

The session, facilitated by officials from the Ministry of Finance, brought

together Heads of Department, Division Managers and accounting personnel to provide guidance on the Government's budget preparation process and the requirements for developing budget estimates. The estimates will be submitted to the Ministry of Finance for review and consideration as part of the Government's national budget preparation process ahead of

the Budget Debate later this year.

Addressing participants, Minister for Health, Michael Joseph, stressed that budgeting should never be viewed as simply assigning figures to projects, but rather as an opportunity to strategically shape the future of the Ministry.

"Project development requires much more than simply putting numbers to



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a budget. It begins with having a clear vision of where your department is going and what you want to achieve. The budget should build on what has already been accomplished and provide a roadmap for moving the Ministry forward,” the Minister said.

Drawing on his extensive background in the private sector, Minister Joseph highlighted the importance of strategic planning and disciplined budgeting in achieving organizational success.

“I have much more experience in the private sector than I do in the public sector, and I understand just how important planning and budgeting are if you want to move an organization forward. I believe that if we adopt that same level of planning and discipline within the public sector, we can place this Ministry, the Government and the country in a much stronger position to achieve its objectives.”

The Minister reminded participants that resources will always be limited, regardless of the size of a budget allocation, making innovation, creativity and careful prioritization essential.

“It doesn’t matter whether you receive one million dollars or one billion dollars; there will always be more that needs to be done than the resources available. That is why we must be innovative in how we plan, prioritize and deliver programmes

and services.”

Minister Joseph further described the Ministry as one of the Government’s most critical portfolios, citing its responsibility for safeguarding public health, protecting the environment, addressing the impacts of climate change and supporting the country’s

public service.

Permanent Secretary, Stacey Gregg-Paige expressed sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Finance for facilitating the engagement and providing valuable guidance to the Ministry’s management and finance teams.



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André Hill Named As Honorary Consul to the Bahamas



Antigua and Barbuda has named an André Hill as its Honorary Consul to the Bahamas with immediate effect.

Hill met recently with Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene and senior members of the staff of the ministry of Foreign Affairs when they discussed his new role and his function within the ministry's policy framework now and in the future.

As Honorary Consul, Hill is expected to help maintain the already close ties between Nassau and St. John's.

"His role is to look for trade and investment opportunities for Antigua



and Barbuda while at the same time promoting the country's interests in the Bahamas.

"Additionally, whenever the occasion arises where an Antigua and Barbuda national in the Bahamas requires consular or other services, he will be the first line of contact for that individual," Director General for Foreign Af-

fairs, Ann Marie Layne explained.

Hill, has been living in the Bahamas for some time as he is married to a Bahamian. He is the son of former Attorney General, Radford Hill, and the current Registrar of the High Court, Cecile Hill.

He is also a lawyer by profession.



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Police Heighten Security Measures For 2026 Carnival



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is advising the public that comprehensive security measures will be implemented throughout the 2026 Carnival celebrations to ensure the safety and security of all patrons, residents, and visitors.

As part of the Police Administration's commitment to maintaining law and order during the country's premier festival, there will be a heightened police presence at Carnival City and other major event venues throughout the season.

Among the enhanced security measures will be the deployment of the Police K-9 Unit at the entrance and exit of every event held at Carnival City. The K-9 teams will assist officers with security screening and the detec-



tion of prohibited and illegal items. Members of the public are encouraged to cooperate fully with police officers and K-9 handlers as these checks are conducted.

Additionally, police officers will conduct regular Vehicle Check Points (VCPs), random stop-and-search operations, and increased mobile and foot patrols across the island. These operations are intended to deter criminal activity, detect illegal weapons, and provide a general safe environment for everyone.

The Police Administration also wish-

es to remind the public that it maintains a zero-tolerance approach to the possession and use of illegal firearms, ammunition, and other offensive weapons throughout the Carnival season. Any person found carrying a firearm, knife, machete, cleaver, scissors, or any other offensive weapon will be arrested and prosecuted in accordance with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

The public is also reminded that smoking in public places is an offence under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda. The police will continue to enforce the provisions of the law, and members of the public are urged to comply.

Additionally, licensed firearm holders are urged to exercise sound judgment and act responsibly during the Carnival festivities. Firearms are strictly prohibited at Carnival events, and licence holders are expected to comply with all directives issued by the Police Administration and event organizers regarding the possession of firearms at these venues.

The Police Administration remains committed to ensuring that Carnival 2026 is celebrated in a safe, secure, and family-friendly atmosphere. Members of the public are therefore urged to remain vigilant, report any suspicious activity, and cooperate fully with police officers in the execution of their duties.


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Development Must Stand Alongside Democracy, Human Rights and Security, Says Chair of OAS Development Council



Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders of Antigua and Barbuda,

The Chair of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders of Antigua and Barbuda, has called for renewed emphasis on development as a central pillar of the Organization of American States (OAS), following an informal meeting of Member States to discuss the priorities of the Council during his Chairmanship.

Representatives of Member States joined the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in an enthusiastic, candid and highly productive discussion on strengthening practical cooperation to advance economic and social development throughout the Americas.

Ambassador Sanders warmly commended Member States for the quality of their participation.

“I was greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm, thoughtfulness and practical spirit that characterised the discussion,” he said. “Delegations brought forward constructive ideas and demonstrated a shared commitment to strengthening CIDI as the OAS forum

for advancing integral development through cooperation and partnership.”

Participants expressed broad support for a practical, results-oriented approach that strengthens partnerships, improves institutional coordination, mobilises technical cooperation and ensures continuity from one Chairmanship to the next.

The meeting also reaffirmed that development should be regarded as an essential pillar of the OAS, working alongside democracy, human rights and security in promoting stability, opportunity and prosperity throughout the Hemisphere.

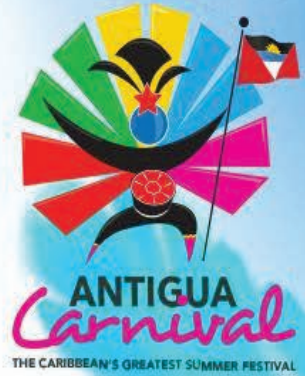
Ambassador Sanders welcomed the participation of the Executive Secretary for Integral Development, Ambassador Isabelle Valois, noting that the Secretariat had carefully recorded the observations and recommendations made by Member States.

“The discussion provided valuable guidance not only for my Chairmanship but also for the continuing work of SEDI in supporting Member

States,” he said. “The active engagement of both delegations and the Secretariat gives me great confidence in our ability to move from discussion to practical results.”

To strengthen institutional continuity, Ambassador Sanders announced that a Chair’s Summary and Follow-up will be prepared for all meetings during his Chairmanship. These summaries will capture the principal themes emerging from discussions and identify areas for future action, providing a practical reference for Member States, future Chairs and the Secretariat.

The Chair’s Work Plan focuses on creating the conditions for business success in the Americas through greater certainty, stronger institutional capacity and improved access to investment and finance. Its objective is to strengthen CIDI as the principal forum within the OAS for advancing integral development through practical cooperation that delivers tangible benefits for the peoples of the Americas.



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Venezuela earthquake relief efforts intensify

The Halo Foundation, in collaboration with Roberts & Co. Attorneys-at-Law, headed by the Governor General's Deputy Sir Clare Roberts, recently made a donation of US\$10,000.00 to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Venezuela's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Carmen Velásquez, expressed her appreciation for this humanitarian gesture. "Venezuela has suffered a serious setback through the damage endured by the earthquake on June 24th," she said. "To date, there are close to 5,300 deaths, nearly 17,000 people with sustained injuries and 18,000 homeless individuals."

The Ambassador called for continued solidarity and assistance via relief supplies including medicine, food, building material and financial contributions. "We have received help from a number of countries, including our CARICOM neighbours," she continued. "But our efforts continue — because one suffering person, is one person too much."

Amsha Ann Eusebe, Chief Administrator, Roberts & Co Attorneys-at-Law, voiced concern at the current plight of Venezuela. "We are our brothers' keepers," she emphasized. There is no way we could stand idly by, while our neighbours are suffering. Antigua is hurricane, earthquake and tsunami prone. At any moment, this tragedy could move even closer to home."

Sandra Lady Williams extended heartfelt support to Ambassador Velásquez. She further thanked Roberts & Co. for being exemplary corporate citizens. "We're here at Government House primarily to make a



Sandra Lady Williams with Venezuelan Ambassador, Carmen Velasquez (centre) and Chief Administrator, Roberts & Co, Amsha Ann Eusebe

monetary contribution to the "From Rubble, We Rise" campaign for the Republic of Venezuela. This would never have been possible without the generosity of Roberts & Co — and although they would have preferred to effect a quiet handover, I felt it necessary to thank the company publicly for the part they are playing and the leadership role they never fail to display. I also recognize the importance of sharing initiatives such as this with

others, so that they too can become active in the rebuilding of a crumbled nation. Nothing is impossible once all hands are on deck. One brick at a time. One child at a time, pulled from below a mangled pile of steel. One prayer at a time."

To donate to the official Venezuela relief fund, please give at www.caf.com/en/ or www.venezuelanoestasola.com/


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Camp City West Campers Enjoy Cultural Experience at Chinese Embassy



Camp City West, the annual summer camp sponsored by the Prime Minister and Parliamentary Representative, Right Honourable Gaston Browne, continues to provide an enriching and exciting summer experience for children as the camp enters its second week. With approximately 150 campers participating, the programme offers a wide range of hands-on activities designed to build creativity, confidence, and practical life skills.

Throughout the camp, children are actively engaged in art and craft, music, dance, hiking, swimming lessons, basic tennis instruction, baking, barbering, and hair braiding. These activities not only keep campers entertained but also encourage teamwork, discipline, and the development of valuable lifelong skills.

Tuesday's highlight was an educational field trip to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, where campers and camp leaders were warmly welcomed by Ambassador Jiang Wei and members of the Embassy staff. The campers were joined by Ambassador Sir Lionel Max Hurst of



the Office of the Prime Minister. The visit provided an unforgettable cultural experience, allowing the children to explore and appreciate the richness of Chinese heritage.

Campers participated in introductory Chinese language lessons, learned to write basic Chinese characters, and toured the Embassy compound. They also enjoyed a variety of interactive



games and cultural activities that filled the day with laughter and excitement. One of the most memorable moments was seeing Ambassador Jiang Wei personally engaging with the children, playing games, sharing smiles, and creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere that the campers thoroughly enjoyed.

This year's visit marks the third con-



secutive year that Camp City West has partnered with the Chinese Embassy, reflecting a growing relationship that continues to broaden the horizons of young people through cultural exchange and educational opportunities.

Camp City West extends sincere appreciation to Ambassador Jiang Wei, Ambassador Max Hurst, and the Embassy team for their generous hospitality and unwavering support. This valued partnership continues to provide the children with meaningful experiences that foster cultural understanding, global awareness, and lasting memories.

As Camp City West continues its summer programme, campers look forward to many more exciting adventures while learning, growing, and



having fun together.

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SUDDEN ELSE – FRIENDS AND FAMILY



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MOST PUNCTUAL AWARD – CALYPSO ACE
LEADERSHIP AWARD – DE ROYAL ELEMENT
MOST IMPROVED – SUDDEN ELSE

JUDGED AWARDS

BEST NEW ARTIST:
SUDDEN ELSE– FRIENDS AND FAMILY

BEST PERFORMER
PRINCESS FAITH – KEEP DE FAITH



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13-18 CATEGORY UN-JUDGED AWARDS

MOST COOPERATIVE – RUEZ

BEST NEW ARTIST:
KAISO KALL – THE POOR MAN STRUGGLE

BEST PERFORMER
KAISO KALL- THE POOR MAN STRUGGLE

MOST PUNCTUAL AWARD – LITTLE CUTE

LEADERSHIP AWARD – RUEZ

MOST IMPROVED – JAH NELLY



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RESULTS 13-18

2ND RUNNER UP
KAISO KALL- THE POOR MAN STRUGGLE

1ST RUNNER UP
RUEZ – TV IN YOUR HAND

WINNERS
CALYPSO LILLY- IN THIS SMALL WORLD

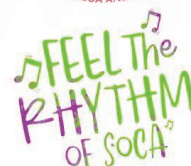


RESULTS GROOVY

2ND RUNNER UP
RUEZ- BE MINE

1ST RUNNER UP
AVA – PLAY GROUND

WINNERS
ZSURA- SMALL PACKAGE



GROOVY UN-JUDGED AWARDS

LEADERSHIP AWARD – MARZ
MOST PUNCTUAL AWARD – DREYA
MOST IMPROVED AWARDS – CUTIE & PRINCESS LAY LAY
PEOPLE CHOICE AWARD – JAMARIO

JUDGED AWARDS
Best New Artist – ZSURA-SMALL PACKAGE
BEST PERFORMER – ZSURA – SMALL PACKAGE

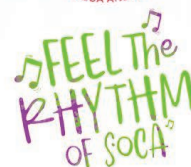


RESULTS JUMPY

2ND RUNNER UP
JAMARIO- LOOK HOW ME MASH UP DE PLACE

1ST RUNNER UP
SOCA J – PAPER FIGHT

WINNERS
LYRICAL BOSS – MAKING BREAD



JUNMPY UN-JUDGED AWARDS

Best New Artist:
JAMARIO

Best Performer
LYRICAL BOSS

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Sobers: A Sobering Understanding



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles and Sir Garfield Sobers

The UWI Regional Headquarters, Jamaica W.I. Tuesday, July, 21, 2026—The following statement is issued by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI), in tribute to Sir Garfield Sobers.

Sometimes words are our best emissaries. They enable us to summon and send out to the wicket a perspective on a warrior called back to the pearly pavilion. With them, we can capture a scripture that illuminates an eternal truth such as this: We are because he was!

Today we hold aloft a pantheon of cherished ideals and can make real our innermost imaginings. This war-

rior erupted from the most oppressed of us and led a Joshua journey to the land of possibilities for those with a passionate desire for recognition and justice.

The transition of The Right Excellent Sir Garfield St. Aubrun Sobers, therefore, represents much more than a monumental moment in the theory and practice of cricket culture and its stage performance. The facts that speak to a powerful parade of artistic genius and theatrical excellence are themselves insufficient to illuminate an icon of hitherto unknown dimensions. Everywhere within the statistics reflecting almost unimaginable performance can be seen a scenario

in which enlightenment rises from the darkest dungeons of the British Empire.

Sir Gary said to his West Indian nation and the colonised beyond: look what can be achieved if our God-given talent is liberated and allowed upon the world stage. His global confidence and glorious craftsmanship inspired intellectual elites and galvanised the grassroots in every ghetto.

His consciousness was manufactured and curated in Barbados, ancestral home of the chattelised cane plantation culture that created concrete ceilings for those who did the cutting. He shattered every imposed

assumption about the materially poor and melanin-rich. By the age of 25, he was canonised as the best all-round cricketer on 'Earth and Mars'. Recognising his records became the business of the game's accountants, who audited a productivity never thought possible in the post-industrial world.

He was quintessentially a West Indian artist whose style and elegance could not be seized only by the statistics. He was recognised and celebrated as home-grown from Kingston to Georgetown and all communities in between. The native son summoned all to rise and embrace the mantra that all things are possible from the progeny of the poor.

It was this revolutionary realisation that the father had seen in the son. Sir Frank Worrell had nurtured his talent and recommended him in 1964 as his successor. Young Sobers, he said, knows everything about the game and what was to be done and how to do it. The West Indian Test team had been dwelling in the cricket basement since inception in 1928, and the loft was now within reach of occupancy.

The world champions from 'Down Under' arrived in the West Indies in 1965. Worrell had wounded the dragon in 1960/61, but its roar was not silenced. Gary's men put it to the sword and secured for the West Indies the coveted cup – World Champions of Test Cricket. It was the first time they had been officially recognised as the best in anything in the world. This success formed the foundation for future captains such as Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards to sustain this legacy of excellence.

There was no turning back for the West Indian colonial backwater of Empire. How could Barbados remain colonised when it was possessed of a brilliant mind, the best of its kind in the universe, that had taken his people to the top of the world?

Barbados grasped the Sobers' scriptural truth, went to the heart of the

Empire and demanded its immediate release from imperial bondage. It was his completeness of cricket culture and pointing to political possibilities that confirmed his incomparable genius and greatness. His freedom created new forms within the game that fashioned his art and signalled the end of his obedience to the old order. His innovations bred a new authority which he alone commanded. He invented the new order of the game and became the symbol of West Indian excellence in the age of independence.

At a time when the regional political federation faltered and failed, cricket held the centre of the nation imagined.

Sobers symbolised the seriousness of a democratic option. The scripture was clearly articulated: talent must be identified, nurtured and institutionally supported lest future genius be left to survive by chance alone.

We must therefore remember him as the brightest illuminating cricket sun, and also for his universal dignity and human decency. The sky was his limit. This is why he will always be a visionary figure in the Caribbean constellation.

It is for all of these reasons and more that his University of the West Indies conferred on him the Honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degree in 1992.



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The ghosts of the US Secretary of State

The US State Department, under the direction of its head Marco Rubio, published a report pointing out the same lies that the so-called head of US diplomacy never tires of repeating to try to argue the absurd idea that Cuba represents a “serious threat to US national security” for supposedly fostering, organizing and supporting what he calls the so-called “terrorist far left”.

The report argues that a considerable portion of the political conflict within the United States can be linked, in one way or another, to Cuban influence. Thus, widespread discontent and protests against problems stemming from racial segregation, police violence, inequality, imperialist wars, the genocidal occupation of Palestine, and racist U.S. immigration policies, among other issues, are falsely attributed to alleged organizing and leadership from Cuba. **Cuba is presented as the main explanation for this discontent “sown in American society.”**

Thus, for example, the Black Life Matters movement is explained by the supposed influence of Havana, and not by its true roots of racial segregation, the Ku Klux Klan, racist assassinations (Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, among other murdered African American leaders) and brutal police repression against minorities.

It is cynical that the Secretary of State attempts to portray Cuba as a promoter of terrorist groups or actions, when it is precisely the US that, for over 66 years, has fostered an endless list of terrorist acts against Cuba. The introduction of plagues and diseases (such as the dengue hemorrhagic fever epidemic that claimed the lives of 101 innocent children), the criminal attack on



a Cubana de Aviación plane with 73 people on board, the more than 600 assassination plots against the country's leaders, the planting of bombs in hotels and tourist resorts—the list is endless. So what do Marco Rubio and the State Department hope to achieve by publishing this new falsehood? The sole objective is to try to justify the inhumane policy of total economic strangulation that the US is currently applying against the entire Cuban people, and to try to convince American public opinion in favor of military aggression against Cuba.

The new “Washington anti-terrorist” campaign (in which it attempts to place Cuba at the center of its agenda) not only constitutes a real threat to the sovereignty of those countries that refuse to submit to its imperial designs, but also to all progressive forces that, under the belief that a better world is possible, are fighting to leave a more humane, secure, and just future for their children and grandchildren. This current

onslaught is also directed against all political forces within the United States itself that oppose the fascist policies of the current administration. The aim is to broaden the list of America's “enemies” beyond just immigrants and drug traffickers, to include what it calls the “radical left,” which includes even centrist Democrats, environmental groups, organizations that protect the rights of immigrants and the LGBT community, and groups that define themselves as anti-fascist, among many others. Prominent politicians such as the mayor of New York City, several federal and state legislators, candidates for the upcoming midterm elections next November, and even a former presidential candidate and influential and renowned federal senator like Bernie Sanders, among others, are targets of this crusade.

Columnist Sara Pequeño wrote in USA Today newspaper: “It's funny that Republicans can see extremism in everyone else but fail to recognize it in themselves.” While the DSA (Democratic Socialists of America) wants absolutely radical policies like Medicare (federal health insurance for the elderly) for all and universal childcare, the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement (the one led by Trump) stormed the U.S. Capitol, destroyed the social safety net, terrorized immigrants and the GMO community, and imposed “a war with Iran that wrecked the economy.”

Today, more than ever, the words of the famous German writer and Nobel laureate Thomas Mann ring true: “When fascism returns, it will do so in the name of freedom.” That is precisely what the Secretary of State and his fascist Government are attempting today.

The Silent Warning Signs: Four Indicators a Business May Be Heading Toward Financial Trouble



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

The most dangerous business failures are rarely the ones everyone sees coming. More often, they are businesses that appear healthy on the surface. Customers are coming through the doors, employees are busy, and sales seem strong. Yet beneath the activity, financial problems may already be taking root.

In today's uncertain global economy, marked by geopolitical conflicts, trade tensions, supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, and shifting consumer spending patterns, every business owner must understand a simple truth: companies rarely collapse overnight.

Financial failure leaves clues.

Whether you are an entrepreneur managing a growing business in Antigua and Barbuda, an investor considering a new opportunity, or a supplier extending credit to customers, recognizing those clues can help you avoid costly mistakes.

Here are four of the clearest warning signals that a business may be

heading toward financial distress.

1. The Cash Flow Illusion: Profitable but Broke

One of the most common misconceptions in business is believing that revenue equals cash.

A company may report impressive sales figures and even show a profit on paper, yet still struggle to pay salaries, suppliers, rent, or taxes. Why? Because profits do not pay bills. Cash does.

A business can sell thousands of dollars in products or services, but if customers are taking months to pay their invoices, the company may find itself starved of the cash needed to operate.

This is why experienced investors often focus less on reported profits and more on operating cash flow. When cash is consistently flowing out faster than it is coming in, the business is effectively running a race against time.

For established companies, prolonged negative cash flow is a flashing red warning light. For start-ups and younger businesses, it means their runway is rapidly shrinking and the day of reckoning may be closer than management realizes.

2. Dependence on Short-Term Debt for Survival

Borrowing money is not a problem. In fact, debt can be a powerful tool for growth.

Hotels borrow to expand. Retailers borrow to renovate. Manufacturers borrow to purchase equipment that increases productivity.

The real danger emerges when a business begins borrowing simply

to survive.

When overdrafts, credit cards, revolving credit facilities, or short-term loans become necessary to cover payroll, purchase inventory, clear goods through customs, or pay utility bills, the business is no longer using debt strategically. It is using debt as life support.

This creates a dangerous cycle. New borrowing is required to repay old borrowing. Interest expenses increase. Cash reserves weaken. Financial flexibility disappears.

Eventually, lenders become reluctant to provide additional funding, and the business finds itself facing a crisis with few options remaining.

3. Slower Payments to Suppliers

In a small business community such as Antigua and Barbuda, relationships matter.

That is why changes in payment behavior often provide one of the earliest indications that financial pressures are building behind the scenes.

When a company that traditionally pays suppliers within thirty days suddenly begins stretching payments to sixty, ninety, or even one hundred and twenty days, it is often a sign that cash is becoming scarce.

In effect, the business is using suppliers as an unofficial source of financing.

At first, suppliers may be patient, particularly if the relationship has been strong for many years. However, patience has limits. Once suppliers begin restricting credit, demanding cash on delivery, or refusing further shipments, opera-

Feature



tional problems can quickly spiral into a full-blown financial crisis.

By the time outsiders notice the problem, the damage is often already severe.

4. The People Closest to the Numbers Are Leaving

Financial statements are important, but people can reveal just as much as spreadsheets.

Pay close attention when key executives begin departing unexpectedly.

A sudden resignation by a chief financial officer, senior accountant, finance manager, or other critical leader may indicate deeper issues within the organization. While departures occur for many legitimate reasons, multiple exits in a short period should never be ignored.

Similarly, delays in producing financial reports, unexplained reluctance to share performance data, or repeated requests for extensions from banks and investors can signal that management is struggling to address worsening financial conditions.

Often, the story becomes visible in management behavior long before it becomes visible in the annual accounts.

The Bottom Line

Warren Buffett famously observed that “only when the tide goes out do you discover who’s been swimming naked.”

Economic uncertainty has a way of exposing weaknesses that remain hidden during prosperous times.

The businesses most vulnerable to failure are not necessarily the ones with declining sales. They are the ones with weak cash flow, excessive short-term debt, strained supplier relationships, and growing

leadership instability.

For business owners, investors, lenders, and employees alike, the lesson is clear: do not wait for the headlines to tell you a company is in trouble.

Watch the signals.

The warning signs are almost always present long before the crisis appears in the headlines. The businesses that survive are usually not the luckiest, but the ones that recognize the signals early and act decisively. In business, hope is not a strategy. Vigilance is.

About the Author

Garfield Joseph is the Executive Director of a public sector organization in Antigua and Barbuda, where he is responsible for translating government policy and national objectives into operational action. His work spans strategic execution, financial oversight, and stakeholder engagement. He has also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, teaching Business Strategy and Policy and Business, Government and Society. He writes regularly on investment, entrepreneurship, and long-term decision-making.

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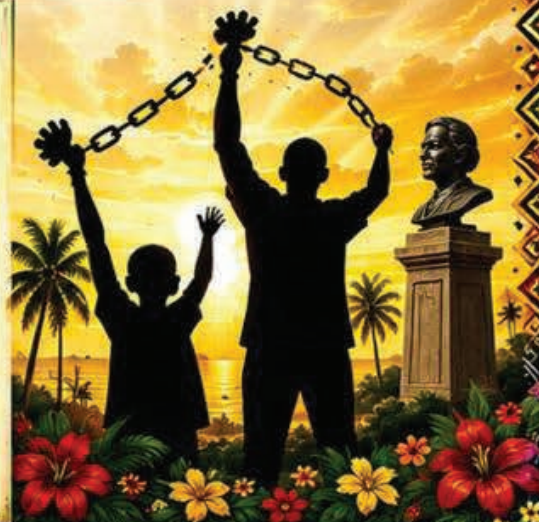
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Regional News

Government reviewing framework for religious use of cannabis

The Government is intensifying consultations on Jamaica's framework for the religious use of cannabis, commonly referred to in legislation as the sacramental cannabis framework.

The consultations are aimed at strengthening governance, safeguarding legitimate religious rights and preserving the integrity of the country's regulated cannabis industry.

A proposal to transfer responsibility for the operational governance and administration of the religious cannabis framework to the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport was among several issues discussed during a high-level ministerial consultation held recently at the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

The proposal is being considered in recognition of the framework's connection to Jamaica's religious and cultural heritage.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Delano Seiveright, said that the review forms part of ongoing efforts to improve policy clarity and coordination among agencies responsible for administering the framework.

"The Government remains committed to protecting legitimate religious rights, while ensuring that the framework is properly governed, clearly understood and not exploited for activities outside of the law," he said.

The consultation followed recommendations from the Cannabis Industry Development Taskforce, chaired by Seiveright, which identified the need for greater policy clarity and stronger coordination in administering Jamaica's religious cannabis framework.

The state minister said the review also provided an opportunity to ensure that the system remains balanced.

He noted that discussions placed emphasis on the criteria for recognising religious organisations, oversight arrangements, cultivation and possession limits, transportation requirements,



approved cultivation lands and religious spaces, enforcement protocols, and measures to clearly distinguish legitimate religious use of cannabis from Jamaica's regulated commercial cannabis industry.

"We must continue to uphold the protections provided under the Dangerous Drugs Act while addressing operational challenges, strengthening compliance and ensuring that legitimate religious use is clearly distinguished from commercial cannabis activities," Seiveright said.

The stakeholders further examined the operation of the Dangerous Drugs (Designation of Land for Cultivation of Ganja for Sacramental Purposes) (Amendment) Order, 2023, which allows recognised Rastafarian organisations and designated individuals to cultivate ganja for bona fide religious purposes on approved lands, subject to prescribed conditions and regulatory

oversight.

Among those in attendance were Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Delroy Chuck; Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia 'Babsy' Grange; Minister of State in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Marisa Dalrymple-Philibert; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Sancia Bennett Templer; and senior technocrats from the aforementioned ministries.

Seiveright noted that "further consultations will continue as the Government works to modernise the governance of Jamaica's religious cannabis framework while protecting religious observance, strengthening regulatory certainty and maintaining public confidence in the country's cannabis regime". (JIS)

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A host of concerns, JFF confident about 2031 Women's World Cup in Ja despite no FIFA decision

DESPITE FIFA expressing concerns about Jamaica's readiness to host matches at the Women's World Cup in 2031, Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) President Michael Ricketts says he's confident the country will secure hosting rights, with an official announcement expected in November.

Last October, Jamaica joined the USA, Mexico, and Costa Rica in launching a joint bid to host the 2031 tournament, which would mark the first time a FIFA World Cup would be staged across four countries.

A FIFA delegation visited the island in February, inspecting facilities including the National Stadium and meeting with representatives of the Jamaica Football Federation and the Government. Hosts were initially expected to be confirmed at the FIFA Congress in Canada in April, but the world governing body postponed the announcement until November 23.

Despite the delay, Sports Minister Olivia Grange told Parliament last month that Jamaica had been selected as one of the hosts, although FIFA has yet to officially confirm the successful bid.

FIFA Consultant and Women's Football Division Advisor Jose Andres Portabella told the Jamaica Observer that while FIFA is enthusiastic about Jamaica hosting matches, there is no



guarantee the country will be selected.

"I couldn't be more excited about the possibility of the World Cup coming to Jamaica in 2031," he said. "FIFA wants to see football all over the world. Next year, the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup will be held in Brazil, which shows the first time ever that the World Cup goes to South America. It's going to be a fantastic performance by players, by fans, incredible stadiums, so why not Jamaica in 2031 with the US, and Mexico, and Costa Rica?"

"There's a lot of work to be done, let's be clear. We have had a delegation that's come here to visit already [so] you (Jamaica) know what you need to do. The infrastructure is a key component of hosting the Wom-

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Regional News



en's World Cup so we're hopeful, we're excited, and we're looking forward to seeing what Jamaica does to bring this tournament to the island."

It's understood that USA and Mexico are almost guaranteed to host the tournament given their established infrastructure, some of which was on display during the recently concluded FIFA Men's World Cup. Costa Rica is also reportedly well positioned, having hosted FIFA youth tournaments including the Under-20 Women's World Cup in 2022.

Jamaica has never hosted a FIFA tournament but it has staged several Concacaf competitions, most notably the 2019 Concacaf Gold Cup, becoming the first Caribbean nation to do so.

Although the country faces a nervous four-month wait for the Women's World Cup decision, Ricketts told the Observer he's optimistic Jamaica will host matches after seeing the level of work and commitment that has gone into the bid.

"When the FIFA team came here we had intense discussions with the contractors who would be doing the renovation and the refurbishing of the National Stadium, and they would have done a presentation which, based on the body language from the FIFA reps, we're pretty satisfied and pretty confident that we will be in a position to host the Women's World Cup in 2031," he said.

"Minister Grange did make an announcement in Parliament. She was pretty confident and so am I, and I want to believe that we will be one of the four countries that will be hosting the 2031 Women's World Cup."

The redevelopment of the National Stadium, which is intended to meet FIFA standards, is expected to begin in July or August 2027, with United Kingdom-based Ryder Architecture and global consulting firm CAA Icon currently completing the detailed design phase, after the feasibility study and concept design.

Last summer Grange said the redevelopment would be completed in 2029. However, during World Athletics President Seb Coe's visit to Jamaica in January she said she could not provide a completion date, although she was "conscious that we have to be finished by a particular time".

Ricketts says FIFA would still allow Jamaica to host the World Cup even if the National Stadium's full upgrade isn't completed by 2031.

"I would want to think that even if — and I'm hoping that it doesn't happen — the stadium is not completely refurbished we still would be in a position to host," he said. "Of course our stadium is, maybe, archaic but when you look at some other stadiums around Concacaf, it is still not the worst. And I would think if we can't get it fully refurbished and we can do

minor repairs and minor adjustments, we still would be in a position to host the World Cup.

"It's unfortunate that we really do not have options like some countries do but this is our main stadium — and, of course, it's probably the only stadium that could really host a World Cup game — but it's not that bad. And I don't think FIFA would come down [hard, even though] they would not be totally happy if the stadium was not refurbished and ready, because they were given some kind of a guarantee from the contractors.

"It's out of the hands of the

JFF and out of the hands of even Concacaf but the Government has given an indication. And, having had discussions with the contractors who did a presentation to the FIFA group in the presence of the IPL [Independence Park Limited] personnel, persons representing Minister Grange's office, the JFF and Concacaf... we are pretty confident that we will host this major tournament — probably the biggest thing ever to happen in local football, maybe in local sport." (Jamaica Observer)

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Haiti calls for international backing as election preparations advance

Haiti's Foreign Affairs Minister Raina Forbin on Monday said her country needs "free, credible, inclusive and above all participatory elections" as she urged the international community not to abandon the French-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) country in its time of need.

The last time Haitians voted someone into power was in 2016. The last President Jovenel Moise was assassinated in July 2021 and since then, armed gangs have seized control of almost the entire capital, Port-au-Prince, as well as large swathes of rural areas of Haiti.

Addressing the United Nations (UN) Security Council, Forbin said that elections which restore trust, strengthen democratic legitimacy as well as pave the way to lasting peace and stability must be encouraged.

"This is what 12 million men, women and children in Haiti are hoping for. Today, seven of Haiti's 10 departments are ready for electoral activities without any major security impediments," Forbin said.

She said that the deployment of the Gang Suppression Force (GSF) in the three remaining departments is absolutely vital to guarantee that every Haitian citizen can exercise his or her fundamental right to choosing his or her leaders freely without impediments.

The GSF is a 5,550-strong, UN-backed multinational security mission authorised under UN Security Council Resolution 2793 to neutralise armed groups controlling parts of Port-au-Prince. It operates in coordination with the Haitian National Police to secure critical infrastructure and protect civilians.

It was formed to replace the underfunded, smaller Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support (MSS)



mission. It is empowered not only to support local police but to conduct intelligence-led arrest operations.

"Security is a necessary bedrock for legitimate elections. The Government has taken significant steps to restore security," Forbin said, noting that since January this year, over 2,000 police personnel have been trained within the framework of the government programme.

She said 1,500 new members are being recruited into the armed forces and that "if progress continues as planned, by the end of this year, the national police would have been reinforced by 4,000 additional police personnel.

"Meanwhile, the armed forces would see 1,500 new servicemen join their ranks. Our objective is clear. Aggressively consolidating Haitian security institutions so that they can uphold our country's security," she told the UN Security Council.

She told the council that the children of Haiti are the first to be hard-hit by the security and humanitarian crisis

facing Haiti and it is for their benefit that "we should work together so as to restore security in a lasting fashion so that they can grow up in peace, access education and build the future that they deserve".

She expressed support for Caricom's statement made at the UN Security Council, saying that today she would like to send a message of hope, "both to our international partners and the people of Haiti".

"Genuine progress is being made on the ground. We are closer than we've been in years to restoring security and holding elections that are free, credible, inclusive and participatory. Now is not the time to back down. It's the time for the international community to stand resolutely side by side with the Haitian people, to lock in progress that's already been made and to help Haiti to return to the path to peace, security, stability, democracy and hope, and this in a lasting fashion," she added.

Forbin said that despite the challeng-

Regional News

es, Haiti is making progress and the Haitian security forces, as well as the GSF are fully mobilised with a view to restoring security.

“Our Government remains fully committed to restoring constitutional order, all the while implementing the reforms that are necessary for strengthening security, reinforcing public institutions and improving the lives of our people, especially the living conditions. The electoral process today has gone further than it’s ever gone over the last decade. Two of the three phases necessary for the holding of national elections have already been completed,” Forbin said.

She said that the remaining phase falls to the Provisional Electoral Council, which should publish the official electoral calendar in the coming days.

“The political party registration process has been completed. The voter registration process is underway. The electoral process is fully operational because now more than ever, the Haitian Government stands convinced that the only way for Haiti to make progress lies in the holding of elections,” Forbin said.

She said that three internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps have been closed, allowing many families to go back to their homes.

In parallel, the Government is pledging a new approach to the humanitarian response, moving from aid to trade, she said, noting that the goal is to create long-term opportunities for the Haitian people, especially for the youth.

“Alongside these efforts, we’ve reactivated our National Disarmament, Dismantlement and Reintegration Commission. We are also continuing the implementation of significant reforms to the judiciary, the objective being to strengthen the rule of law and accountability,” Forbin said.

The foreign affairs minister said two specialised chambers aimed at punishing mass crimes, sexual violence and

serious financial crimes have been inaugurated.

“Nonetheless, we’re cognisant that progress is fragile. It is in this spirit that we call on the Security Council to support the full deployment of the Gang Suppression Force, as well as the renewal of its mandate, so as to furnish it with the support it requires to fulfil its mission. Genuine progress has been made on the ground. Now is not the time to back down. Madam President, for far too long, Haiti was defined by its crises. Today, Haiti wants recognition for the progress it’s made,” she said.

Forbin said Haitians are demonstrating remarkable resilience with the country’s institutions continuing to operate.

“Security is improving. Recapturing of territory is ongoing. The electoral process is progressing. The Republic of Haiti, under the leadership of the Prime Minister Alex Didier Fils-Aimé, is making progress. The momentum is genuine. We cannot lose this momentum. This is why we need partnerships. We need sustained international commitment, so as to lock in the progress that’s already been made,” Forbin said. (CMC)



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27 dead, 83 missing from capsized Guyana ferry, says PM

At least 27 people died after a ferry capsized off the coast of Guyana, Prime Minister Mark Phillips said Monday, as the small South American nation mourned the tragedy.

Sixty-nine people aboard the MV Barima have been rescued since the vessel flipped over on Saturday night, Phillips told reporters, adding that 83 more remained missing.

“Our focus again is on finding people,” he said, having raised the death toll from a previous 10. “We still have hope.”

The aging ferry was traveling from the capital Georgetown to Guyana’s inland Essequibo region when it overturned.

Phillips said he was now “confident” that 179 people were aboard, following uncertainty about the numbers involved in the disaster.

Authorities earlier Monday expanded the size of the area being searched from 400 to 1,070 square kilometers (154 to 413 square miles), while local fishermen joined recovery efforts.

The French army also sent 12 divers, two doctors and a mechanic from nearby French Guiana to aid the search-and-rescue operation, the presidency said.

Two crewmembers aboard the aging ferry tested positive for marijuana after the incident, Phillips had told reporters Sunday, adding that an investigation was underway.

The ship began its journey in mid-afternoon and a distress call was received about eight hours later, Edghill earlier said.

The ferry was built in 1939, according to the shipping website VesselFinder.

Boats typically travel by sea before reaching a river to arrive at Port Kaituma, which is located in the depths of a dense rainforest. (AFP)





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Flash floods kill at least 20 in Afghanistan and leave more than 100 missing



Flash floods in eastern Afghanistan have killed 20 people, injured about 80 more and left more than 100 missing, Afghan authorities said Monday.

The floods struck the eastern province of Nuristan, said Yousaf Hammad, spokesman for the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, adding that a search and rescue operation was underway to locate the missing.

“Unfortunately, severe floods today in Parun city and several other areas of Nuristan province have caused heavy loss of life and property among our fellow citizens,” Hammad said, adding that the floods had caused extensive damage to people’s homes, agricultural land and public facilities.

“We urge all citizens to stay away from flood-prone areas and zones at risk,” he said.

Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, with snow and heavy rain that trigger flash floods, often killing dozens, or even hundreds, of people at a time. In 2024, more than 300 people died in springtime flash floods. Earlier this year, at least 110 people were killed by widespread flooding and landslides in several parts of the country.

Decades of conflict, along with poor infrastructure, a struggling economy, deforestation and the intensifying effects of climate change, have amplified the impact of such disasters, particularly in remote areas where many homes are built of mud and offer lim-

ited protection against sudden deluges or heavy snowfall.

“We were saddened to learn that floods caused loss of life and property damage in Nuristan province this afternoon,” said government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. “We pray for those who lost their lives in this incident and for a speedy recovery for the injured.”

More extreme weather was forecast, with heavy rain, thunderstorms, strong winds accompanied by dust and sand, and flash floods predicted for 10 of the country’s 34 provinces, the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation’s meteorology department said. The ministry warned residents to avoid riverbanks and other areas at risk of flooding. (AP)

New UK PM Burnham announces tax cut after cabinet shakeup

New United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Andy Burnham announced a tax cut to ease cost-of-living pressures as he was set to convene his first cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

After a day earlier replacing Keir Starmer in Downing Street and purging the government of his predecessor's loyalists, the 56-year-old on Tuesday morning said he was cutting value added tax on consumer electricity bills.

The new business minister Jonathan Reynolds told Sky News this was a "tremendous announcement for the first day of the new cabinet", which was due to meet Tuesday afternoon.

The measure cuts the 5 percent tax from October and will trim about £45 (\$61) a year off, and will be initially funded by cancelling a plan to introduce digital IDs.

It came after Burnham promised to "give people some breathing space now, some help with the cost of living".

Burnham pledged to re-industrialise Britain and decentralise power as well as end sleeping rough on the streets after he met King Charles III at Buckingham Palace to become the head of government following Starmer's departure.

The monarch's fourth prime minister since he acceded to the throne in 2022 — and Britain's seventh in just over a decade — Burnham said the country needed to show the world it could "regain stability".

Standing outside his new official resi-



dence at Number 10, he vowed to create "a new political model" and "build a new economy".

In his first call with US President Donald Trump, Burnham underlined his "commitment to defence and security", a UK government spokesperson said.

Trump said he had a "very good conversation" with Burnham and that the two leaders would meet "in the not too distant future".

Burnham "has got a big job ahead of him, but he will be able to do it and, of course, the U.S.A. will be there to help!" Trump posted on Truth Social, noting they discussed trade, military cooperation and demining the Strait of Hormuz.

To Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Burnham reaffirmed

Britain's "resolute commitment" to Ukraine in its defence of Russia's invasion, according to Downing Street.

French President Emmanuel Macron sent congratulations, urging Burnham to "give new momentum to the partnership" with the European Union.

Burnham moved swiftly to stamp his authority on the new government by sacking several Starmer loyalists from his cabinet, including Rachel Reeves and former deputy prime minister David Lammy, while moving some ministers to other jobs and promoting allies.

Ex-defence secretary John Healey replaced Reeves as finance minister, Ed Miliband became foreign minister and left-wing figurehead Angela Rayner returns to government.

Wes Streeting, who abandoned plans



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International

AROUND THE WORLD



to run against Burnham for the Labour leadership, is now defence minister.

Shabana Mahmood was reappointed interior minister to see through her hardline reforms of Britain's asylum system.

In his brief speech, Burnham said he would "bring forward a new plan for Britain, a 10-year plan", without giving specifics.

Starmer had similarly talked of his intention to lead a "decade of national renewal" before Labour MPs ditched him last month in favour of Burnham, who only returned to parliament four weeks ago.

Burnham also said his first instruction would be a pledge to "end rough sleeping", a measure he attempted to implement as a regional mayor in northern England, although it was not fully successful.

Other announcements included a vague promise to re-industrialise Britain through public procurement and to

build more public housing.

He repeated his belief that "in the 1980s Britain took some wrong turns", as he pledged to decentralise power away from Westminster and "put life's essentials back under stronger public control to make them affordable".

Starmer departed Downing Street insisting his two years in office had made Britain "stronger and fairer".

Starmer leaves multiple challenges for Burnham, including a tepid economy, high government borrowing costs, a ballooning welfare bill and irregular migrants arriving in small boats that have fuelled support for the hard-right Reform UK party.

Unpredictable energy prices due to the US-Iran war and volatile relations with Washington under Trump also threaten to buffet his premiership.

Burnham, an MP between 2001 and 2017, has little room to manoeuvre amid high public debt and strict financial rules requiring him to balance

government spending against tax revenue.

Starmer led Labour to a landslide election victory in July 2024 after 14 years of Conservative rule, but his premiership became characterised by scandals, missteps and policy U-turns.

Burnham, the ex-mayor of Greater Manchester nicknamed the "King of the North", was parachuted in by Labour after Starmer resigned, with MPs viewing him as the party's best chance of reining in Reform, led by Nigel Farage.

But his swift "coronation" without a contest as Labour leader and now prime minister, by virtue of Labour's huge parliamentary majority, has raised questions about how he will achieve his aims.

Opposition politicians have questioned his mandate and called for a snap election. (AFP)



DAILY PROGRAMMING




EARLY VIBRATIONS 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA

THE RUSH HOUR SHOW 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

BAD COMPANY 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

JAH WADADLI 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

Trump imposes 50% tariffs on Canadian goods, citing disputes over autos, alcohol and cheese



President Donald Trump on Monday imposed 50% tariffs on most Canadian goods, declaring that Canada has unfairly discriminated against American autos, alcohol and dairy products.

The move could unleash a new wave of economic chaos, with risks of higher inflation and further fraying of relations between two nations that had been closely woven together before Trump's return to the White House.

The administration official previewing the action said that Canada was one of the only nations other than China that retaliated against Trump's previous tariffs and must be held accountable.

The official insisted on anonymity on a call with reporters to preview the president's actions and said that

Trump signed three proclamations to launch the tariffs under Section 338 of the 1930 Trade Act.

Several Democratic lawmakers last year proposed repealing the section because they said Trump could use it to destabilize the economy.

The new 50% tariffs would exclude energy products, potash, fish and critical minerals, but they would include goods that had previously been protected from import taxes by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA.

That 2020 trade pact was not renewed by the US, triggering a new set of negotiations that could run until 2036.

The White House said in a fact sheet that the tariffs would go into effect in 30 days, meaning there is time for ne-

gotiations, as Trump has not always followed through on his announced tax hikes on imports.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said in a statement that his government believes in the "benefits of free and fair trade," having signed "more than 20 new economic and security partnerships."

He said Canada is prepared to negotiate with the Trump administration.

"This trade dispute has raised costs for families, particularly in the US," Carney said.

"Canada stands ready to engage intensively to address outstanding issues with the US to the mutual benefit of our citizens." (AP)

Rare identical quadruplet girls born in Australian hospital



Most parents think their kids are one in a million. But these spontaneous identical quadruplets are one in 15 million.

Jenitar and Jortham Na'amoana of Brisbane, Australia, welcomed four newborn daughters on July 14, according to the BBC.

Mom Jenitar, 34, was admitted to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital at 25 weeks gestation so her high-risk pregnancy could be monitored. The babies were born via C-section at 28 weeks and 4 days.

The parents gave the girls a selection of classic names: Emily, Harriet, Catherine and Alexa. The last name, however, has an extra-special meaning for the family.

According to the BBC, the parents named Alexa after Dr. Alexa Bendall, the maternal fetal medicine specialist and obstetrician who took care of Jenitar for the duration of her pregnancy.

Bendall described the gesture as "a beautiful tribute."

The girls, who will stay in the NICU until they grow to full term, are monozygotic quadruplets, meaning that a single fertilized egg split into four embryos. Doctors estimate the odds of conceiving spontaneous identical quadruplets at roughly one in 15 million.

The quads' birth is so rare that it may be the first in Australia.

"There may have been a couple of cases elsewhere in the world and

when I say a couple, literally a couple," Bendall told Australian outlet Nine News.

It will certainly take the family some time to get adjusted, especially because Jenitar and Jortham already have four children at home between ages 1 and 10. The parents are looking to purchase a 10-passenger van to transport everyone.

In all, Emily, Harriet, Catherine and Alexa are "currently doing extremely well," Bendall told the BBC, and their mom is too.

"Jenitar has taken everything in her stride from day one... she has somehow dodged every complication and risk for both herself and her babies," Bendall added. (NBC)



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Sports News

Competitive start in Masters Division in ABDA draughts tournament

Both matches in the Masters Division ended in draws on the opening night of the Antigua and Barbuda Draughts Association's (ABDA) Cool and Smooth Invitational Tournament.

The nation's top player, Bernard "Premier" Willock, was held to a 3-3 draw by St. Clair Josiah in one of the opening matches at the invitational draughts tournament, which commenced at the Gray's Green Community Basketball Court, also known as Knockle Block, on Monday night.

The Masters Division match between Anthony "Tony" Gomes and Marvin "Bruce" Gray also ended in a 4-4 draw.

But Amakusa Jeremiah and Theodore "Freddy" Jervier recorded commanding wins in their opening encounters in the Seniors Division.

Jeremiah coasted to a 6-3 victory



against Eustace "Zocio" Samuel, and "Hard GT" Grant. Jervier pulled off a 5-2 win over Tion



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Another defeat for the Leewards in CWI regional under-19 tourney

Barbados Under-19s continued their dominant march, while Trinidad and Tobago recovered from the defeat against Barbados on Saturday to record a four-wicket win over the Leeward Islands Tropical Wave in the CWI Rising Stars Men's 50-over Championship in Antigua on Monday.

Trinidad and Tobago kept their final hopes alive with a tense victory over Leeward Islands with 10 balls to spare at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The Leewards posted a competitive 270-9 in their 50 overs, with Eirette Richards top-scoring with 83 and Antiguan captain Matthew Miller contributing 65.

Antiguan Tanez Francis chipped in with 38, but Qadeer Juman's excellent spell of four for 29 and Christian Lall's three for 15 restricted the total.

T&T's chase was anchored by Tariq Richards, who fell just short of a century with a brilliant 88. He found able support from Ethan Ramcharan 48 and Levi Ghanny 47, who kept the innings on track despite Kunal Tolokani's three-wicket haul of three for 38. The Red Force reached their target in 48.2 overs, finishing on 273 for six.

However, it was Barbados which continued their dominant march through the regional under-19 tournament by securing their fifth consecutive victory with a commanding seven-wicket thrashing of Jamaica in Bethesda.

The young Bajans have now stamped their authority on the tournament in emphatic fashion, booking their place in Wednesday's final against Jamaica with an unblemished record that has sent a clear



warning to their remaining rivals.

Barbados seamer Zarell Harding led the demolition job with the ball, claiming four for 24 as Jamaica were skittled for a paltry 107 in just 27.5 overs after they decided to bat.

The Jamaican innings never gained any traction and looked in tatters at 69 for seven in the 22nd over, with only lower-order batter Geovanni Grey offering resistance with 24 and Joel Williams hitting an unbeaten 16.

Harding received excellent support from Justin Parris, who took three for 17 to ensure the Jamaicans never recovered from early setbacks.

In reply, Barbados made light work of the modest target, racing to 110 for three in just 14.4 overs. Jordan Graham top-scored with a brisk 29, while captain Gadson Bowens contributed 21 and Kemar Dixon finished unbeaten on 19.

Jamaica ultimately claimed second place on 20.2 points, despite falling to Barbados in their final preliminary fixture. The result was enough for Jamaica to edge both Trinidad and

Tobago and the Leeward Islands, who each finished on 19.2 points, and earn a chance to challenge the defending champions for the title.

The Windward Islands produced a dominant display to crush Guyana by a mammoth 219 runs in Pigotts.

Opting to bat first, the Windwards amassed an imposing 315 for nine, powered by Theo Edward's fluent 87 and Derwin Lewis's aggressive 73.

Cody Fontinelle gave support with 33. Adrian Hetmyer took four for 47 and Gilbert Griffith claimed three for 36.

The chase proved catastrophic for Guyana, who were skittled for just 96 inside 17.1 overs. It was all over by the shout as Guyana were at one stage 29 for seven.

However, Darwin Joseph's unbeaten 33 was the only innings of note, while Elran Glasgow wreaked havoc with four for 30 and Tyler Venner claimed three for 11 to complete the rout.

Sports News



Jamaica Kingsmen unveil overseas stars for 2026 CPL campaign



Saim Ayub

KINGSTON, Jamaica - The Jamaica Kingsmen have officially announced their seven-man overseas contingent for the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), striking a calculated balance between elite Pakistan internationals and emerging subcontinental talent.

The line-up, featuring Maaz Sadaqat, Saim Ayub, Usman Khan, Hassan Khan, Hunain Shah, Shayan Jahangir, and Tayyab Arif, has been meticulously assembled with a phased availability plan designed to maximise impact across the tournament's duration.

The Kingsmen's overseas roster will operate in distinct waves. Hassan Khan and Hunain Shah commit to the full campaign, arriving from day one to provide a settled all-rounder anchor and a strike-bowling spearhead, re-

spectively.

Shayan Jahangir and Tayyab Arif will also join at the season's outset, completing the overseas core for the opening fixtures.

Then, on August 19, the contingent pivots. Ayub, Sadaqat, and Khan will link up with the squad, replacing Jahangir and Arif in a strategic handover that injects fresh batting artillery for the tournament's decisive backend.

Sadaqat, a left-handed batting all-rounder, has been earmarked as one of Pakistan's most electrifying white-ball prospects.

With an ODI cap to his name and a destructive top-order game complemented by left-arm orthodox spin, he turned heads during a dominant showing at the 2025 Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament.

Ayub needs no introduction. The Pakistan international is widely regarded as one of the most explosive left-handed openers in global white-ball cricket, renowned for his fearless stroke play and improvisation. His off-break bowling adds a valuable extra dimension to the Kingsmen's attack.

Khan arrives as a right-handed wicketkeeper-batter with a reputation as one of franchise cricket's most feared strikers. A Pakistan international, his ability to single-handedly flip a match within overs makes him a lethal weapon in the middle order.

Khan brings versatility as a right-handed all-rounder, with his slow left-arm orthodox bowling and lower-middle-order hitting earning him runs across multiple international T20 leagues.

Shah, a right-arm medium-fast bowler from a storied cricketing family, has carved out a reputation for ice-cool composure under pressure. Jahangir, the US national team's right-handed wicketkeeper-batter, joins for the opening phase, bringing dependable glove work and international experience from franchise competitions worldwide.

Arif, a right-handed batter with a strong Pakistan domestic pedigree and under-19 national pathway, rounds out the early-phase contingent, eager to stamp his authority on the franchise stage.

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Wilson says Jamaica under no pressure at Commonwealth Games

Experienced Sunshine Girls defender Latanya Wilson says the Jamaican team is not feeling pressured to repeat its historic silver-medal performance at this month's Commonwealth Games Championships in Glasgow, Scotland.

The championships will be held from July 23 to August 2, with the Sunshine Girls hoping to build on their memorable campaign at the previous Games in Birmingham, England, where they captured their first-ever Commonwealth Games silver.

Wilson, who will be competing at her second Commonwealth Games, said the players are focused on executing their game plan rather than worrying about expectations.

"There is no pressure and we don't look at pressure," said Wilson. "Pressure is a privilege, and even though we have gotten the silver medal the last time, it was a privilege to be in that position. I feel like inside this camp there is no pressure, and so are just doing the basics, and making sure that we are doing what we are supposed to do, so that when we get out there on court we are able to perform."

However, the 25-year-old Wilson acknowledged that every team will be eager to get one over on the Sunshine Girls, but she noted that the Jamaicans are ready for whatever challenge come their way.

"Every team will be coming at us, but it is just us knowing that we are in a really good space and whichever team we get - it may be Trinidad and Tobago, Australia, England or New Zealand - we are going to go out there and give our best," she said.

Wilson said the Sunshine Girls' training camp has been progressing well, with the players concentrating on the fundamentals ahead of the



tournament.

"The camp is going fine, you know. Everybody is feeling good, the energy is high and we are just working on the basic stuff to ensure that when we get out there on court, we make sure that we get the big ones right."

Wilson enters the championships on the back of another outstanding season in Australia's Suncorp Super Netball League, where she and Sunshine Girls captain Shamera Sterling-Humphrey helped the Adelaide Thunderbirds capture a third consecutive league title.

Wilson, who is widely regarded as one of the best defenders in world netball, noted that she is looking forward to another opportunity to represent Jamaica on the international stage.

"I am pretty excited. It is a new challenge and I am looking forward to an exciting challenge. And being with the Jamaican team, you know, it is quite different, but I am definitely excited," Wilson said.

She also shared that one of her main objectives is to help mentor the younger members of the squad going into the championships.

"I just want to make sure that I am more of a help to the younger ones, and so it is not necessarily about me, but how I can get the youngsters to be more involved in the game and helping the people around me. Also, making sure that I am doing my gym and training hard, and whatever comes I will take it."

Reflecting on her successful club season with the Thunderbirds, Wilson credited teamwork and understanding her role for the team's title-winning campaign.

"It was an amazing season because we connected out there on court, and I knew my role and we were able to get the job done. It is such an honour to play in Australia and to be an inspiration to the younger generation back in Jamaica and also in Australia as well."

Third defeat for Antigua Schools in Garfield Sobers Tournament



Guyana's Top Level Cricket Academy cricket team

The Antigua and Barbuda Schools team suffered their third loss in the annual Sir Garfield Sobers International Under-19 Cricket Tournament in Barbados on Monday.

The Antigua Schools lost by 116 runs against the Top Level Academy of Guyana in their latest outing.

Top Level Academy batted first and scored 215 for eight off their 40 overs. The Antiguan conceded 64 extras, including 51 wides.

Nicholas Lovell hit an unbeaten 38, Kishawn Silas struck 35, Kaylan Callender made 29, and opener Shahid Ramzan scored 22. Ondra Peters bagged four for 30, and Jayden Charles claimed two for 33.

In reply, Antigua Schools were bundled out for 99 in 24.5 overs. Only three Antiguan managed to reach double figures. Captain Hosea Roberts, who opened the batting, hit a top

score of 28; Anthony Pierre got 24; and opener Keno Goodwin chipped in with 13.

Captain Mickel Sharma snapped up three for 19, Saif Samaroo claimed two for 13, and Shane Prince captured two for 34.

In their previous outing, Antigua Schools lost their second match in a 19-run defeat to Presentation College of Trinidad and Tobago.

Presentation College was dismissed for 140 in 21.5 overs. Jayden Charles bagged five for 44, William Pitman claimed three for 54, and Anthony Pierre captured two for 26.

In reply, Antigua Schools were bowled out for 121 in 22.5 overs. Captain Hosea Roberts anchored the innings with an unbeaten 55, while Anthony Pierre contributed 16.

The Antigua and Barbuda Schools team suffered their first loss in a

six-wicket defeat to the New York Tri-State Youth Development team in their second match at the international tournament.

Antigua Schools were dismissed for just 101 in 26.3 overs, with only four batsmen reaching double figures.

In reply, the New York Tri-State Youth Development team achieved victory by scoring 106 for four in 18.3 overs.

The young Antiguan cricketers launched their campaign by pulling off a 27-run victory over Combermere School of Barbados in a 30-over one-day match at Foundation School Ground in Bridgetown.

The Antiguan were dismissed for 178 in 29.4 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Chasing 179 to win, Combermere School was restricted to 151 for nine off their allotted 30 overs.