

100-Days To CHOGM

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Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Sen. Shenella Govia

100-Days To CHOGM Starts



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

Today, July 24, marks 100 days before the start of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November this year and the National Task Force planning for Antigua and Barbuda's historic hosting of the event has started the official countdown to CHOGM 2026.

Chair of the Task Force and Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, and the National Focal Point for CHOGM 2026, High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill have issued statements to signal the official start of the countdown and to encourage all of Antiguan and Barbudans to join in welcoming the more than five thousand delegates who are expected to attend.

"As we move closer to this historic event, you can expect that our public education campaign, our media engagements and our promotion of the various events associated with



High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill

CHOGM...to increase exponentially.

This is also a **Call to Action**to all nationals and residents of Antigua and Barbuda. This **Call to Action** comes not only from me, as the Task Force Chair, but also from Prime Minister Right Hon. Gaston Browne and the Cabinet of Ministers," Minister Greene stated.

He noted he is pleased with the responses so far to the call for volunteers and the commitment shown by both the members of the National Task Force and its sub-committees.

"Already we have seen an impressive response so far to our call for volunteers...our sub-committees have been working tirelessly over the past several months in their quest to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda is ready for this event.

"We anticipate that more than five thousand delegates will come to our

country for CHOGM and here is where my appeal is directed at you...the people of Antigua and Barbuda to extend a warm welcome to all our guests...the eyes of the world will be on Antigua and Barbuda. We cannot disappoint... we cannot fail," he declared.

In her remarks, National Focal Point High Commissioner Hill said she is pleased to be part of a committed team working unrelentingly to ensure the success of the meeting.

"I am privileged to serve under the leadership of our Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne, Foreign Minister Hon. E.P Chet Greene, and colleagues across the CHOGM Task Force to work tirelessly to deliver what we know will be an important gathering; a successful gathering of leaders of civil society, of youth; of advocates from across the world.

"So today, I want to pay special tribute to the Task Force members, all of whom over the past two years, have been working around the clock to ensure that everything from protocol, to security, to transportation, to accreditation, to accommodation, are in place," she stated.

She too joined with Minister Greene in making a call for Antiguan and Barbudans to go the extra mile to ensure that CHOGM delegates feel welcomed and satisfied with all the arrangements made on their behalf.

Today, members of the Task Force will make radio and television appearances promoting the start of the countdown to this historic event.



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Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm



- ↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- 🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

Government Eyes New Airline Partnerships After JetBlue Pullout

The Government has assured the public that Antigua and Barbuda's tourism sector will not suffer as a result of JetBlue Airways' decision to discontinue service to the destination, revealing that discussions are already underway with several major airlines to replace the lost airlift.

Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Senator Shenella Govia, provided the update on Thursday while responding to questions from Opposition Senator Chester Hughes during the Upper House's "Urgent Questions" segment.

Senator Govia said JetBlue's withdrawal was the result of an internal commercial decision made by the airline without prior notice to the Government.

"As per public knowledge, JetBlue, without advance notice, indicated that they had made an internal commercial decision as part of their wider strategy to redeploy their aircraft to fill the slot in Fort Lauderdale that became available through Spirit Airlines," she told the Senate.

She explained that the airline had also cited rising fuel prices and increasing operational costs among the factors influencing its decision to redeploy aircraft within its network. Despite the development, Govia said officials from the Ministry of Tourism have already intensified efforts to secure replacement service.



She disclosed that the Ministry's Director of Tourism for North America was engaged in discussions with American Airlines on Thursday, although she declined to reveal details of those negotiations.

"Our Director of Tourism is currently in negotiations with American Airlines, of which I am not at liberty to disclose what is being discussed, but we look forward to greater arrivals from American Airlines," Senator Govia said.

She added that discussions are not limited to American Airlines, noting that government officials are also engaging Delta Air Lines, United Airlines and other carriers as part of a broader strategy to maintain and expand Antigua and Barbuda's airlift.

"Our Ministry of Tourism officials are currently in negotiation—not limited to American Airlines—but all other airlines, Delta, United Airlines, and I can assure you that for the 2026-2027 tourism period and beyond, we will see that slot being replaced or filled," the Leader of Government Business outlined.

She also revealed that Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez and representatives of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) met with JetBlue officials earlier this week to discuss the airline's decision.

According to Govia, the airline reiterated that its withdrawal was based on commercial considerations rather than issues specific to Antigua and Barbuda and maintained that tourism officials have been working diligently to ensure the destination experiences little to no disruption from the loss of the service.

"Our Ministry of Tourism officials have been working tirelessly to ensure that it does not impact us at all," she said.

JetBlue's decision to discontinue its Antigua service has prompted concern among some stakeholders about the potential effect on visitor arrivals from the United States. However, government has moved swiftly to reassure travelers that they are working overtime to ensure there are no major disruptions on the New York/Antigua route.



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Cabinet Ratifies First Land Certificates for Barbudans

Former Barbudan MP Arthur Nibbs is among five recipients that are now among the first beneficiaries under the Government's landmark "\$1 an Acre for Barbudans" Land Empowerment Programme.

Cabinet this week ratified the issuance of the inaugural freehold land certificates to Nibbs, **Attienne Davis, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard, Chaz Askie, and Evamay Askie George.**

The programme allows eligible Barbudans to acquire up to one acre of land for the nominal sum of EC\$1, with the Government saying the initiative is intended to expand land ownership, encourage investment, promote homeownership and strengthen long-term economic security on the sister island.

Cabinet said the issuance of the first certificates represents more than an administrative exercise, describing it as the beginning of a new era in Barbuda's land administration.

According to the Government, the initiative establishes the legal foundation for the creation of the Barbuda Land Registry and introduces a modern system of land administration designed to provide greater clarity, transparency and security of tenure.

Individuals currently occupying parcels larger than one acre will have the additional lands professionally sur-



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

veyed and independently valued to facilitate the regularisation of ownership.

Speaking at Thursday's Post-Cabinet media briefing, Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant defended the initiative, describing it as an unprecedented opportunity for Barbudans to secure legal ownership of land.

"It's a matter of choice, and the government is gifting the people of Barbuda lands," Merchant said. "While you and I here in Antigua have to pay \$12 per square foot for land, Barbudans are being offered by this government one dollar for an acre of land."

Merchant emphasised that participation in the programme is voluntary and

that every eligible Barbudan has the option to take advantage of the offer.

Rejecting criticism of the initiative, Merchant argued that the benefits significantly outweigh any perceived drawbacks.

He added that the programme is intended to empower Barbudans by giving them legal ownership of land that can be used to build homes, establish businesses, access financing and create wealth for future generations.

"You can own land that can be of great benefit to you, not only now, but in the long run, and also to your offspring," Merchant stated.

Cabinet also disclosed that additional parcels across Barbuda are currently being identified and prepared for surveying, paving the way for more freehold land certificates to be issued in the weeks and months ahead.

The Government said the phased roll-out will allow many more Barbudans to benefit from the programme while ensuring the land regularization process is conducted in a fair, transparent and orderly manner.

Officials described the ratification of the first freehold land certificates as a defining chapter in Barbuda's history, saying it marks the first time Barbudans are becoming legal freehold owners of their land under the new empowerment initiative.



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Shopkeeper Shot Dead By Suspected Robbers

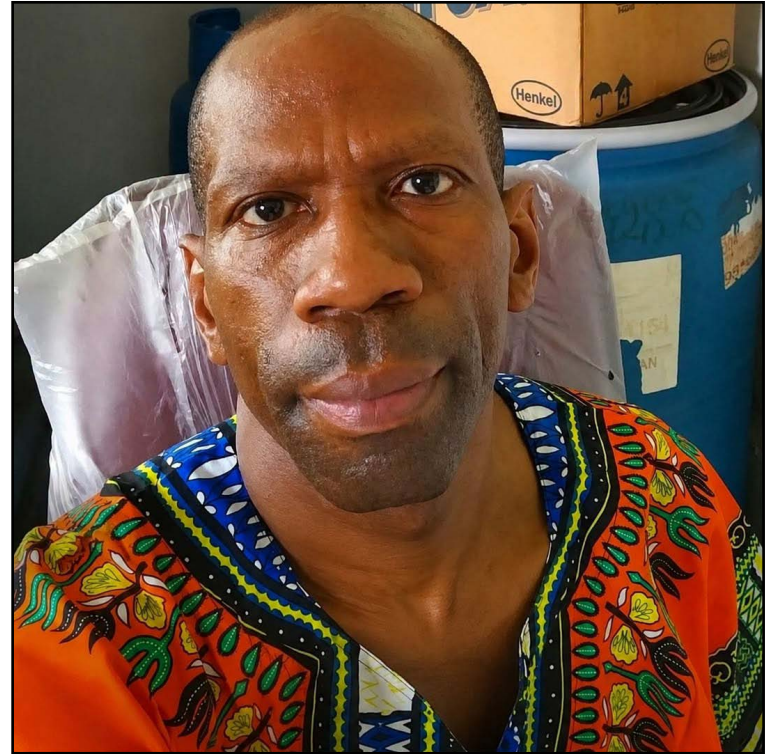
The police have confirmed that a male shopkeeper was shot and killed at his supermarket along the Freemans Village Main Road shortly before 8:30 Thursday morning. The brazen attack has sent shockwaves throughout the surrounding community.

Police have since identified the victim as 60-year-old Eleazer Francis, a well-known shopkeeper from Swetes. Speaking during a press briefing, Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers provided further details on the incident as investigators continue to piece together the circumstances surround-

ing the fatal shooting.

Preliminary investigations he says reveal that two armed suspects entered the supermarket of which Francis was a proprietor. A subsequent struggle resulted in the shooting. Francis was pronounced dead at the scene

Commissioner Jeffers also extended his sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of Eleazer Francis. He assured the public that the investigation is being treated with the highest priority and reaffirmed the Police Force's commitment to bringing those responsible to justice as authori-



Eleazer Francis

ties intensify their efforts threat of gun violence in to combat the growing the country.



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Police Promise To Crack Down On Criminal Activities



Police Commissioner Everton Jeffers

Police Commissioner Everton Jeffers is sending a strong message to those behind the recent surge in gun violence across Antigua and Barbuda. He warns that law enforcement is prepared to adopt a tougher, no-nonsense approach as authorities move to restore public confidence and crack down on violent crime.

The police commissioner issued a stark and chilling warning to violent criminals in Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking during a press briefing at Police Headquarters, senior members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda addressed members of the media regarding the shooting that occurred earlier Thursday morning. The briefing also provided an update on several recent incidents of gun violence across the country.

In opening his statement, Commissioner Jeffers said the police are deeply concerned about the recent rise in gun-related violence, particularly shootings carried out in broad daylight. He maintained that law enforcement will use every resource at its disposal to restore public confidence and ensure the safety of residents.

“Let me State clearly that this level of lawlessness is unacceptable. The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda remains resolute in its commitment to confront crime... We will continue to deploy every resource, intelligence capability and investigative tool at our disposal to identify, apprehend and bring those persons responsible before the court,” the Commissioner stated

Commissioner Jeffers further revealed that the Police Force will fully implement a comprehensive crime-fighting strategy designed to make it significantly more difficult for violent offenders to terrorize communities and instill fear across the country. He then delivered a firm and unmistakable warning to those

involved in violent crime, making it clear that the police will adopt a tougher, no-nonsense approach in dealing with such offences.

“We have devised our operational plans for this season as a result of today’s events the full plan will be rolled out. And I want to say this... if you come in with fire we will meet you with fire because we will not gamble with public safety... we are coming for you, and the easiest thing for you to do is to turn yourself in,” Jeffers added.

The Commissioner’s warning signals what appears to be the beginning of a more aggressive and uncompromising approach to tackling violent crime in the country.



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FRIDAY JULY 24 | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



FOR CARNIVAL 2026

VENUE ENTRY

General Admission Entrances:

- **GATE 1** - Independence Drive (Long St.)
- **GATE 2** - Old Parham Road (Roundabout)

VIP Entrance:

- **GATE 6** - Coronation Road (The Red Gate closest to the Fire Station)

PRIVATE SECURED PARKING (\$5 - \$10)

- T. N. Kirnon School - Past Student Association
- Antigua Grammar School - JCI Antigua
- Archives - Melting Pot Rhythm Room

TICKET AGE GUIDELINES

PAID EVENTS

Children **under 12** enter FREE and must be accompanied by an adult

GATE OPENING

Gates will open **two hours** prior to the start of each event

EXIT GATE

- **GATE 3** - Old Parham Road - the small gate opposite Red Cross

Please note that wrist banding will only take place at the exit gate.

ROAD CLOSURE

The following areas will be affected:

- Cenotaph to the Roundabout
- Coronation Road
- Old Parham Road (from Antigua Grammar School westward to the Roundabout)

TICKET BOOTHS - CARNIVAL CITY

Paid Event Days - Opens at 5 pm

- BOOTH 1: Independence Drive, Roundabout
- BOOTH 2: Independence Drive, Long Street

Important Reminders

Most importantly, please be responsible and help us keep Carnival safe for everyone!

- If you see something, say something.
- Please follow all venue rules and security guidelines.
- No bottles, sharp objects, or prohibited items will be allowed inside the venue.

Let's enjoy Antigua Carnival 2026 safely and responsibly!



A vibrant, colorful poster for the Antigua Carnival Rhythm Court. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds, confetti, and a large, stylized sun. In the center, there's a logo for Antigua Carnival featuring a bird with spread wings and a flag. Below it, the text "ANTIGUA Carnival" is written in a stylized font, with "THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL" underneath. To the right, there's a speech bubble that says "FEEL THE RHYTHM". The main title "RHYTHM COURT" is written in large, bold, colorful letters. Below the title, there's a pink box with white text that says "MON JULY 27TH | TIME 11AM AND WED JULY 29TH | UNTIL". Below this, there's a location pin icon and the text "CARNIVAL CITY". At the bottom, there's a section for DJs: "DJs: DJ TENNY | DJ CRUMPZ | DJ EZ-P". Below that, it says "VIBES: TRADITIONAL GAMES COMPETITION! WARRI AND DOMINO WIN: \$1,000 DAILY UP FOR GRABS!". At the very bottom, it says "LOCAL FOOD | GAMES | MEET FRIENDS | COMMUNITY VIBEZ COME FOR THE VIBEZ, STAY FOR THE RHYTHM." The background of the poster shows a crowd of people at a carnival, with a large, colorful tent visible on the right.

ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

FEEL THE RHYTHM

RHYTHM COURT

MON JULY 27TH | TIME 11AM
AND WED JULY 29TH | UNTIL

📍 CARNIVAL CITY

DJs: DJ TENNY | DJ CRUMPZ | DJ EZ-P

VIBES: TRADITIONAL GAMES COMPETITION!
WARRI AND DOMINO
WIN: \$1,000 DAILY
UP FOR GRABS!

LOCAL FOOD | GAMES | MEET FRIENDS | COMMUNITY VIBEZ
COME FOR THE VIBEZ, STAY FOR THE RHYTHM.

Minister of State, Johnson Tells Antigua and Barbuda Nationals In Toronto 'You Are Part of Us'



Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Transformation, Kiz Johnson, reached out to the Antigua and Barbuda diaspora in Toronto, Canada, thanking them for their efforts in supporting their countrymen and women especially in times of disaster.

Minister Johnson was speaking at the Antigua and Barbuda Emergency Relief Canada High Tea Fundraiser event in Toronto dubbed, Elegance, Connection and Compassion.

She noted that over the years Antigua and Barbuda Emergency Relief Canada (ABERC) has mobilized efforts in the Greater Toronto Area to raise funds and gather relief supplies in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes.

"For more than three decades, this remarkable organization has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the welfare of Antigua and Barbuda. Born out of a desire to assist our nation in times of emergency, ABERC has remained a steadfast bridge between our homeland and our diaspora in Canada.

"From Hurricane Hugo to Hurricane Irma and other periods of national need, ABERC has mobilized support, raised essential resources and responded with compassion and purpose. Its work reminds us that national service is not limited by geography," she ob-



Local News

PAGE 11



served.

In commending the work of the organization, its leadership and sponsors, Minister Johnson said the work is a reminder that love of country can be expressed from near or far and that, although nationals may live in different parts of the world, Antigua and Barbuda remains one national family.

“Today, I want every Antiguan and

Barbudan in this room to know that you remain an important part of our national family; you are not forgotten; you are valued; you are appreciated and your contribution matters.

“Every day, through your work, your integrity, your accomplishments and your service to your communities, you serve as ambassadors for Antigua and Barbuda. You demonstrate the strength, warmth, resilience and

excellence for which our people are known,” she noted.

The Minister of State remarked that one of the greatest strengths of any nation is its people—not only those who reside within its borders, but also those who carry its identity, values and story throughout the world.

“Our diaspora is therefore not separate from our national development. You are part of it,” she declared.


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7:00am - 11:30pm



- ↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- 🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

Local News

UWI FIC and the University of Toronto Enter Partnership

A unique academic partnership between The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and the University of Toronto is helping to broaden international perspectives on Caribbean history, law and society.

The Summer Abroad Programme has brought Canadian students to Antigua and Barbuda for an immersive learning experience, with plans already underway to expand the initiative into a two-way exchange.

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and the University of Toronto recently partnered on a Summer Abroad Programme, welcoming students from the Canadian institution to Antigua and Barbuda.

The programme, which concluded on Friday, provided students with an intensive course exploring Caribbean law, crime, political economy, colonialism, and reparatory justice.

Designed as an experiential learning initiative, the course combined classroom instruction with community engagement, allowing participants to examine how colonial legal systems, plantation economies, and inherited inequalities continue to shape Caribbean society, governance, and politics.

Speaking during a press briefing following the conclusion of the programme, Pro

Vice-Chancellor of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Professor Justin Robin-



son, indicated that the partnership between the two universities is expected to evolve into a mutually beneficial exchange. He explained that the collaboration will eventually provide opportunities for students from the Antigua-based campus to travel to Toronto and participate in a similar academic programme.

The UOT's Head of the Department of Law Prof. Kamari Maxine Clarke echoed those sentiments, noting that while it is important for Canadian stu-

dents to gain a deeper understanding of the post-colonial realities of Caribbean justice systems, it is equally important for Caribbean perspectives and experiences to be represented and shared within international academic spaces.

Representatives from both institutions say the collaboration marks the beginning of a long-term academic partnership that will strengthen research, cultural understanding and student mobility between Antigua and Barbuda and Canada.



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AT&LU Secures Bargaining Agent Status For Supervisory Workers at WIOC

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) is reporting that it has received formal recognition as the bargaining agent for supervisory workers at the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC).

AT&LU President, Bernard de Nully said the union welcomes the new cohort of workers from among the supervisory staff at WIOC who have now joined the union seeking representation.

“The AT&LU will provide the representation and the leadership that the supervisory staff requires from the collective bargaining agent. We are pleased to be representing this category of workers at one of the largest companies in the country, WIOC,” de Nully emphasized.

He reported that he led the union’s negotiations on behalf of the staff at WIOC.



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Local News



The Pace Is Set – Antigua Carnival 2026 Officially Comes Alive



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) is celebrating the tremendous success of the official pre-events for Antigua Carnival 2026, setting the stage for a memorable Carnival.

Over the past few nights, Carnival City came alive with extraordinary talent and creativity, as patrons were treated to world-class entertainment, vibrant cultural performances, and an atmosphere

befitting the Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival.

With the official start of the Antigua Carnival schedule on Saturday, July 25th, the Commission is proud to reflect on the remarkable pre-events that have set the tone for the days ahead.

Minister of Sports and Creative Industries, Hon. Dwayne George, commended the Commission and everyone involved in bringing Carnival City to life. *"I am incredibly proud of the transformation of ARG into a first-class Carnival City. This year, the Commission has truly levelled up. I have great anticipation for what's to come for next year as we celebrate the 70th anniversary. To my Chair and Commissioners, the feedback has been overwhelm-*

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ing. People say Carnival City feels like a major international venue. Everything sounded great, looked spectacular, and the atmosphere is exceptional. I have seen the major transformation and appreciate every single person who made it happen.” When asked what he is most looking forward to this Carnival season, Minister George smiled and said: “I’m looking forward to the Rhythm Court Vibes on Monday, seeing my people vibing, enjoying some good food, listening to great music, and soaking up the true Carnival spirit. And I’m calling out Gassi Dread... meet me at the domino table!”

ABFC Chairperson Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul described the opening events as an amazing success and praised everyone; this is truly a team effort. “There is so much goodness, so much talent, culture, and entertainment that poured from our young people. Big and serious! To my office team, all the committee members who worked tirelessly, the sponsors who believe in us and the parents and guardians who supported every rehearsal, costume fitting, and performance, thank you for your commitment. Job very well done. To our young superstars, you are all to be celebrated for proud representation and showcasing your incredible talent on such a BIG stage. Congratulations to each and every one of you, and special congratulations to all of our winners.” The Chair concluded with a message that captures the spirit of the season: “The pace is set... It’s Carnival, Baby!”

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission extends heartfelt congratulations to all of the winners crowned thus far and wishes every competitor the very best in the exciting days ahead.

As Antigua Carnival 2026 officially unfolds, the Commission encourages residents and visitors alike to fully embrace the festival by supporting events, celebrating the nation’s culture, and creating lasting memories with family and friends.

Don’t just watch Carnival, live it. Come out to Carnival City, experience the music, culture, food, and unmatched energy that make Antigua Carnival the Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festival.

Above all, the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission reminds everyone to celebrate responsibly. Respect one another, stay safe, drink responsibly, designate a driver where necessary, and work together to ensure Antigua Carnival 2026 is remembered for all the right reasons.

Feel the Rhythm. Live the Culture. Celebrate Responsibly. It’s Carnival Baby!

NOTICE

PROBATE FORM P7

Rule 15

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

(Probate)

CLAIM NO: ANUHPB 2026/0132

In the Matter of an Application for a Grant of Probate
in the Estate of Magdalena Spillmann aka Madeleine Spillmann
late of Miisseedorf, Switzerland, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Rika A. Bird of 27 Jasmine Court, Friar’s Hill Road, St. John’s, Antigua for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above-named deceased who died on the 19th day of September, 2025 without revoking a Will bearing the date of 3rd December 2015 wherein the applicant is named sole Executor.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Probate to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice dated this 23rd day of July, 2026.

Rika Bird & Associates
Attorneys -at-Law for the Applicant

Filed by Rika Bird & Associates, Chambers, 27 Jasmine Court, Friar’s Hill Road, St. John’s, Antigua. Telephone number: (268) 562-1880/1881; Fax number: (268) 562-1882; Email: legal@rikabird.com
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant whose address for service is the same.



OFFICIAL PARADE ROUTES 2026

25 JUL

OPENING OF CARNIVAL & T-SHIRT MAS 2 PM - 9 PM

Opening Parade Assembly Point: Parliament Drive (Old House of Culture)

This is the assembly point for Floats, Steel bands, Cultural Characters and Contestants. A short ceremony marking the official opening of the parades will be held on Parliament Drive.

T-Shirt Mas Starting Point: Old Parham Road Near TN Kirnon School

EAST on Old Parham Road → **RIGHT** Simon Bolivar Drive → **RIGHT** Factory Road → **LEFT** Parliament Drive → **RIGHT** Queen Elizabeth Highway → **RIGHT** Independence Ave → **LEFT** Redcliffe Street → **RIGHT** Thames Street → **RIGHT** High Street → **LEFT** Independence Ave → **RIGHT** Old Parham Road





OFFICIAL PARADE ROUTES 2026



26
JUL

JUNIOR CARNIVAL 2 PM

Assembly Point:
Parliament Drive (Old House of Culture)
(Assemble: 1:30 PM • Move Off: 2 PM)

RIGHT Queen Elizabeth Highway → **RIGHT** Independence Ave → **LEFT** Redcliffe Street → **RIGHT** Thames Street → **RIGHT** High Street → **LEFT** Independence Ave → **RIGHT** at roundabout onto Old Parham Road → **RIGHT** Coronation Road into Carnival City





OFFICIAL PARADE ROUTES 2026

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OPENING OF CARNIVAL
AND T-SHIRT MAS.

FEEL THE
RHYTHM

JULY 25 2:00 PM
ST. JOHN'S



Party Politics and the National Interest



By Sir Ronald Sanders

In 1796, as George Washington prepared to leave the presidency of the United States, he issued a warning that remains relevant, particularly for Caribbean small states. He was addressing a young republic whose 13 states were still consolidating into a durable Union while facing threats from powerful European nations.

Political parties, he feared, could become dangerous when loyalty to faction displaced loyalty to country, opponents were treated as enemies, and the acquisition of power became more important than its proper purposes.

Washington called this the “spirit of party”. He did not deny that political differences were natural, nor could he have foreseen the indispensable role that organised political parties would come to play in representative democracy. His warning concerned something more corrosive: political competition becoming a permanent struggle in which every contest is treated as existential, every action of an opponent condemned, and nation-

al welfare subordinated to partisan victory.

That warning deserves serious consideration in the Caribbean.

Political parties are indispensable to democracy. They organise ideas, contest elections, form governments and provide an opposition capable of holding governments to account. No healthy democracy can function without disagreement, scrutiny and the possibility of peaceful removal of a government through the ballot box.

But unbridled party loyalty becomes destructive when a victorious party treats the state as its possession and opposition parties believe their path to power requires them to attack everything the government does, irrespective of its merit or benefit to the country.

For small Caribbean states, the consequences are especially serious. These countries possess little economic or military power and are highly vulnerable to the demands of larger states. Their trade, finance, investment, tourism, transportation and technology depend heavily on external actors.

They are exposed to coercive measures, arbitrary classifications, financial blacklisting, loss of correspondent banking, visa restrictions, demands concerning taxation and citizenship programmes, and pressure to accept policies devised by larger states for their own purposes. Such demands can materially affect employment, public revenue and living standards, even though the affected countries have little role in shaping them and limited power to resist.

Under these circumstances, national cohesion is an element of national defence.

The political systems inherited by much of the English-speaking Carib-

bean do not always encourage that cohesion. The Westminster system has served the region well, facilitating regular elections, orderly changes of government and a durable commitment to parliamentary democracy and the rule of law.

But its Caribbean form has a pronounced winner-takes-all character. Electoral victory often gives the governing party effective control of both the executive and the parliamentary majority. This places a special responsibility on governments to exercise restraint, respect independent institutions and recognise that an electoral mandate confers stewardship of the state, not ownership.

Opposition parties carry an equally important responsibility. Their role is not only to scrutinise the government and present credible alternatives, but to do so in a manner that strengthens the state they seek to lead. Opposition for its own sake - attacking every initiative, obstructing measures that serve the public interest, or denying credit irrespective of merit - does not advance democracy. Exclusion from office by the will of the electorate does not justify conduct that weakens the very institutions an opposition aspires to inherit.

Caribbean states have limited pools of highly trained administrators, economists, engineers, diplomats, educators and technical specialists. Yet too much of this scarce capacity is consumed in political combat. The country pays twice: it loses the contribution of capable citizens and diverts energy that should be directed towards development into a struggle over political advantage.

The damage extends beyond domestic governance. It affects the capacity of Caribbean states to defend their independence, sovereignty and national dignity. External actors recognise

when domestic parties are prepared to use international pressure against one another, and when agreements are denounced simply because a government negotiated them.

A powerful country or institution then does not have to confront a united state. It can exploit domestic grievances and allow Caribbean political actors to weaken their own national position.

Caribbean countries need to recover the idea that some interests belong to the nation as a whole. Territorial integrity, constitutional government, electoral legitimacy, economic security, international standing and the dignity of citizens should not become opportunistic instruments of party competition.

Too often, nothing is regarded as being above political exploitation. A foreign government takes a measure harmful to a Caribbean country, and some celebrate because they believe it injures the party in office. An unfounded allegation is made against the country, and political actors repeat it in the hope of embarrassing the government.

But a wound inflicted upon the country to damage one administration does not disappear when another party takes office. The weakened institution, lost international confidence, damaged reputation and adverse precedent become the inheritance of its successor.

Caribbean states cannot afford to approach every external challenge as another opportunity for domestic combat. They require consultation across political lines, professional public services and a national understanding of the principles that should guide foreign and economic policy.

Ultimately, democratic competition must occur within an accepted framework: political opponents are legitimate, constitutional restraints apply to everyone, public institutions belong to the state not political par-

ties, and the defence of national sovereignty is a shared responsibility.

George Washington spoke to a young republic struggling to preserve its independence in a world dominated by powerful states. Caribbean countries face a comparable challenge.

For small states, placing country above party is a practical necessity in navigating an increasingly uncertain international environment. In a world where power is unevenly distributed and external pressures are persistent, domestic division weakens the capacity to respond effectively and coherently. Caribbean nations may not be able to prevent every adverse ac-

tion taken by larger states, but they can determine whether they confront such challenges with unity of purpose or internal discord.

When the interest of party is allowed to override the national interest, it is not domestic rivals who ultimately prevail, but external forces whose interests are neither aligned with, nor accountable to, the people of the region.

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



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VACANCY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
THE OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS REGISTRAR**

(Salary range: XCD\$32,519.65 - XCD\$48,735.33)

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Provide administrative support to the Campus Registrar
- Support administrative activities associated with governance committees, including minute-taking, document storage, and electronic filing.
- Manage the Campus Registrar's appointments and/or travel arrangements
- Coordinate with staff within the Office of the Campus Registrar on special initiatives
- Compose and prepare documentation and correspondence for the office
- Establish and maintain files and records for the office
- Organize and facilitate meetings and special events
- Perform other job-related duties as assigned by the Campus Registrar

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- Minimum of an accredited Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Business Administration, Educational Administration or any related field
- Minimum of five years' experience in providing administrative support; preferably at an institution of higher learning

Completed degrees from an accredited institution that is above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience.

Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation) and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to **fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu** and addressed to **The Manager – Employee Success Department, Office of the Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.**

The final date for applications is **July 31, 2026**. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above email address without waiting to be contacted.

The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua on **September 1, 2026**.

The UWI thanks all applicants; however, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



THE UNIVERSITY
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VACANCY PROJECT TECHNICIAN

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

PROJECT TECHNICIAN
PROJECTS AND PLANNING UNIT
THE OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS REGISTRAR
(Salary range: XCD\$32,519.65 - XCD\$48,735.33)

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Support the Head of Projects and Planning in the development of projects, including liaising with contractors and suppliers and preparing project documentation such as design briefs and reports.
- Conduct inspections and assessments of spaces and buildings slated for renovation or remodeling, and provide recommendations to the Head of Projects and Planning.
- Assist with project and other procurement processes, including liaising with end-users to confirm requirements for Requests for Proposals, and reviewing estimates, quotations, and invoices.
- Review project documentation, such as drawings, briefs, and proposals, to ensure technical soundness.
- Monitor project progress, including recording meeting minutes and correspondence, tracking agreed variations for budget reconciliation, and conducting quality control site inspections during construction.
- Conduct assessments and audits, and prepare reports and presentations as required.
- Perform other job-related duties as assigned.

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Architecture, Engineering, Project Management, Management or a related area.
- A minimum of three years' experience in Architecture, Engineering, Project Management, Management or a related area.

Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation) and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to **The Manager – Employee Success Department, Office of the Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.**

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Regional News

Kingston Creative becomes first Caribbean recipient of UNESCO-Aschberg grant

Kingston Creative has become the first non-governmental organisation in the Caribbean to receive funding under the UNESCO-Aschberg Programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals.

According to a release, Kingston Creative was one of just 16 organisations selected from 1,068 applications worldwide in 2026. The grant will fund the Caribbean Artist Resilience & Empowerment (CARE) Programme, an 18-month regional initiative aimed at strengthening the rights, economic security, mobility and disaster preparedness of artists and cultural professionals in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The programme will begin in Jamaica before expanding to Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados.

Head of the Culture Programme at the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean, Yuri Peshkov, said the initiative reflects the importance of supporting artists and the wider creative sector.

“This initiative demonstrates that sustaining artists is an investment in resilient communities. Through the UNESCO Aschberg Programme, we are supporting practical solutions that strengthen artistic freedom, improve the working conditions of cultural professionals and ensure that creativity remains a driving force for sustainable development across the Caribbean. We congratulate Kingston Creative on this pioneering achievement and look forward to the positive regional impact of the CARE Programme,” Peshkov said.

The award recognises Kingston Creative’s work in strengthening cultural resilience, particularly following Hurricane Melissa. The organisation conducted rapid assessments involving more than 500 artists, finding that over 70 per cent had lost income due



to cancelled performances and exhibitions, while 60 per cent experienced damage to tools or studio spaces.

The release said the data supported UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture in conducting the UNESCO Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), marking the first time Jamaica’s creative sector was formally incorporated into the country’s official disaster response.

Kingston Creative also established a Creative Resilience Fund, which provided emergency stipends to more than 80 creative practitioners affected by the hurricane, with support from donors including the Clara Lionel Foundation and the Miami Foundation.

Co-founder and Executive Director of Kingston Creative, Andrea Dempster Chung, said the grant highlights the need to better protect Caribbean creatives.

“Artists in Small Island Developing States are on the front line of the climate crisis, yet they are too often invisible in recovery planning. This grant is recognition that Caribbean creatives matter – and that the systems that protect them must be built here, by us, for the region and for the

world,” she said.

According to the release, the CARE Programme will include research into the needs of artists in crisis across Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, capacity-building workshops for 250 creative professionals, the development of a cultural crisis resilience model for Small Island Developing States, grants to cultural institutions to support displaced artists, and a regional forum for Caribbean governments and cultural leaders.

The programme will prioritise women creatives, youth, Indigenous cultural practitioners, including the Maroons, and informally employed artists. Its partners include the Cultural and Creative Industries Alliance of Jamaica, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, and the University of the West Indies Institute of Cultural Studies.

The UNESCO-Aschberg Programme supports initiatives that promote artistic freedom and improve the status of artists worldwide under the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. (Jamaica Observer)

Regional News

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Defence declares Ninjaman 'should never have been tried'

Lawyers for convicted murderer Desmond 'Ninjaman' Ballentine yesterday argued before the Court of Appeal that his case "should never have been tried", claiming that years of delay deprived him of key defence witnesses and rendered the proceedings unfair.

Attorney Robert Fletcher, who represents Ninjaman, said the more-than-eight-year delay before trial created "presumptive prejudice" because witnesses who could have assisted the defence died before they could testify.

Fletcher argued that the loss of those witnesses left Ninjaman unable to properly present his case and that the prejudice caused by the delay could not have been cured by directions given to the jury.

"Presumptive prejudice does not require proof. It arises by the act," he told the court, urging the appellate judges to consider whether the trial should have proceeded given the circumstances.

The defence also argued that the trial judge erred in failing to uphold an application for a stay of proceedings on the basis of abuse of process, which resulted in prejudice to Ninjaman and deprived him of a fair trial in breach of the constitutional rights guaranteed under the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, 2011.

Fellow attorney Russell Stewart challenged the safety of Ninjaman's conviction, arguing that the trial judge failed to properly address the reliability of the identification evidence.

Stewart submitted that although the Crown called several witnesses, the evidence of only two — a male and a female witness — was critical to the case against Desmond Ballentine. He argued that the judge's summation was too general and did not provide sufficient guidance on how the jury should assess the identification evidence.

He focused on the male witness, who testified that he had known Ninjaman for about 17 years and saw him in the community several times each week.



However, Stewart pointed out that the

witness admitted that, despite those years of familiarity, he had never spoken to Ninjaman.

He argued that while the witness had the "quantity" of contact because of the number of years he had seen Ninjaman, he lacked the quality of interaction required for the jury to safely treat the evidence as recognition.

Stewart also highlighted differences between the accounts of the male and female witnesses. He said the male witness testified that he saw three men approaching the deceased's home armed with blunt objects and attempting to get through the gate. According to that account, the deceased threw stones at the men before Ninjaman arrived and fired two shots in the witness's direction.

The female witness, however, gave a different sequence of events, Stewart said. He told the court that she testified that she was inside the house when she

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Regional News



heard what sounded like a gunshot and later saw Ninjaman and another accused jumping over a six-foot gate with guns.

Stewart argued that those inconsistencies required a more detailed direction from the trial judge. He also challenged Ninjaman's sentence, saying the sentencing principles were not properly applied.

Representing Janiel Ballentine, Desmond Ballentine's son, King's Counsel Peter Champagnie challenged the voice and visual identification evidence against his client, describing it as "woefully inadequate".

Champagnie argued that the main witness had only two or three seconds to observe Janiel Ballentine while he was allegedly jumping over a gate with a firearm. He said her attention was divided between Janiel and his father, making the identification unreliable.

He also pointed to differences between the witness's trial testimony and earlier statements, including her claim that she saw Ninjaman through a side window, which he said had not previously been disclosed.

Attorney Samoi Campbell, who also

represents Janiel Ballentine, argued that the trial judge misdirected the jury on joint enterprise by allowing foresight to operate as an alternative to intention, contrary to *R v Jogee*.

She submitted that no witness identified who fired the fatal shot and argued that the evidence did not establish that her client shared the intention required for murder. Campbell also challenged Janiel Ballentine's sentence, saying the judge failed to properly consider mitigating factors, including his lack of previous convictions, favourable social enquiry report, time spent in custody and trial delay.

Attorney Zara Lewis, representing Dennis Clayton, urged the court to quash his conviction, arguing that the prosecution failed to prove that Clayton shared the intention required for murder.

"The evidence was so inherently weak that even a properly directed jury could not find that Mr Clayton intended to encourage the principal to shoot the deceased," Lewis submitted.

She argued that while Clayton was linked to earlier confrontations involving stones and other weapons, there

was no evidence that he knew a firearm would be used or participated in any plan to kill Ricardo Johnson.

Lewis also challenged the trial judge's directions on common design, arguing that references to intention and foresight confused the jury. She further raised an alleged non-disclosure issue, claiming the defence was not initially told that a key witness had been placed in a witness protection programme.

Desmond Ballentine, Janiel Ballentine and Clayton were sentenced to life imprisonment in 2017 after being convicted of the 2009 murder of Kingston resident Ricardo Johnson and shooting with intent.

The prosecution alleged that the killing stemmed from a domestic dispute in Lower Mall Road, St Andrew, and that the men returned the following day armed with guns and other weapons before opening fire.

The appeal is being heard by Justices David Fraser, Lorna Shelly Williams and Marcia Dunbar-Green.

Stewart will complete his submissions today. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Rescued fisherman dies after eight-day sea ordeal

One of the six fishermen rescued after spending eight days adrift at sea has died before he could be reunited with his family.

The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday confirmed that 66-year-old Trinidadian ship captain Anthony Murray died aboard the merchant vessel MV Marvel Kite hours after he and the other survivors were rescued from a life raft following the destruction of their fishing vessel, ST Vincent VII.

According to the ministry, Murray began experiencing shallow breathing after the rescue. Although he initially appeared stable and

showed no signs of pain or discomfort, the crew of the MV Marvel Kite later reported that he became unresponsive while the vessel was en route to St Lucia for a planned rendezvous with Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard vessel CG25.

Following Murray's death, the vessel was diverted to St Vincent, where his body was to be formally examined and his death officially certified. The remaining rescued fishermen were also to undergo medical examinations before being flown back to Trinidad by the Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard.

The ministry said it delayed announcing Murray's

death until his immediate family had been informed.

"The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wishes once more to express its heartfelt gratitude to the crew of MV Marvel Kite and all others who participated in the search and subsequent rescue of the crew of ST Vincent VII, and to offer sincere condolences to the family of Captain Murray upon his untimely and unfortunate passing," the ministry said in a statement issued by Defence Minister Wayne Sturge.

The six-member crew had endured eight days and nights adrift after their fishing vessel caught fire while

operating in waters near the maritime borders of Suriname and French Guiana.

The crew included Guyanese captain Eshwar Persaud, known as "Shanie"; Shannon Mohammed, known as "Joey", of Claxton Bay; Kevin "Dougla" Fournillio; Anthony Murray; a fisherman identified only as Alex; and a Vincentian national.

Their ordeal ended on Monday when the MV Marvel Kite, which was sailing to the United States, spotted the survivors on a life raft about 349 nautical miles east of Galeota. (Trinidad Express)

SVG compulsory retirement age moves to 65



The St Vincent House of Assembly has officially passed the Pensions Amendment Act 2026, marking a significant shift in retirement policy for non-pensionable officers within the public service.

This legislation increases the compulsory retirement age from 60 to 65 years while maintaining an elective early retirement option starting at age 60. During the parliamentary sitting, members also moved the Teachers Pension Amendment Bill 2026 through all its stages to apply similar provisions to specific categories of educators.

Deputy Prime Minister St Clair Leacock introduced the Pensions Amendment Act, explaining that the bill amends the principal act to allow non-pensionable officers to remain in government service until age 65. He noted that the term cabinet was replaced with appropriate authorized officer to streamline administrative powers regarding these appointments.

He further clarified that a transition clause ensures the new rules do not negatively affect officers currently in the service unless they specifically

elect to continue beyond age 60.

Leader of the Opposition Ralph Gonsalves contributed to the debate by situating the amendment within a broader demographic context, noting that citizens are living and working longer.

He highlighted a regional trend where fertility rates in the Caribbean have fallen to between 1.5 and 1.7, which is below the 2.1 rate required for population renewal. While he supported the necessity of the bill, he called for comprehensive reform of public sector pensions and raised questions regarding whether similar extensions should apply to the Director of Audit.

Minister of Tourism Kishore Shallow, spoke in support of the bill, characterizing it as a practical and equitable measure for lower-paid servants. He explained that many non-pensionable officers previously faced a financial gap because they were forced to retire at 60 before becoming eligible for full National Insurance Services benefits.

By extending the age to 65, the government aims to provide these workers with the opportunity for continued income until they reach full pension

eligibility.

Prime Minister Godwin Friday emphasized that these legislative changes address an unconscionable position previously faced by employees at the lower ranks of the public service. He detailed how the pensionable age for the National Insurance Services has been gradually increasing and is set to reach 65 years by 2028. He stated that the amendment removes the need for employees to make ad hoc annual requests to the cabinet for extensions, instead providing them with a legal right to work until 65.

Following the passage of the primary Pensions Act, the Deputy Prime Minister moved the Teachers Pension Amendment Bill 2026 through the house. This bill specifically targets teacher ones and teacher twos who hold non-pensionable offices, allowing them to also retire at 65 or elect to go at 60.

The Leader of the Opposition noted that while he accepted the move, the Ministry of Education must carefully manage potential tensions in classrooms where pensionable and non-pensionable teachers may have different retirement mandates.

The Pensions Amendment Act 2026 was read a third time by title and passed during this sitting. The Teachers Pension Amendment Bill 2026 was also taken through all its stages in accordance with standing orders. Government MP's said these measures are intended to ensure fairness and provide financial security for long-serving public officers as they approach retirement. (St Vincent Times)

Regional News

DEATH TOLL 65...Five more bodies recovered in Guyana ferry tragedy



THE number of people who lost their lives when the MV Barima capsized last weekend rose to 65 yesterday, as efforts continue to refloat the 87-year-old vessel that sank as it made its way from Georgetown to Port Kaituma, a small village within the Barima-Waini administrative region of the country.

Prime Minister Mark Phillips told a news conference that five new bodies had been retrieved yesterday and that “the total number of bodies recovered since the commencement of search and rescue operation now stands at 65”.

He said 44 of the bodies have been positively identified by family members and, “to date, 23 of those identified have been released to their families”.

“Regional authorities together with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security continue to work closely with grieving relatives to facilitate the release of the deceased for funeral

rites and burials,” Phillips said, adding that “the number of rescued passengers and crew remains unchanged at 76”.

He stressed that the government’s immediate priority is supporting grieving families and completing the rescue and recovery operation.

“The focus now is not on compensation. The focus is on recovering bodies, financing the burial and funeral rites and providing whatever assistance the families need now,” he said, adding that the support currently being extended to families should not be interpreted as compensation.

“That is not deemed compensation. That is the government’s responsibility in times like this to assist families,” he said, adding “as we close off the rescue and recovery operation, it is the intention of the government to have a commission of enquiry mounted as early as possible.

”After the commission of enquiry, then the issues of compensation will

be determined because it will be guided by the commission of enquiry, the report, and the recommendations,” he told reporters.

Phillips said maritime assets and personnel from the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and the Brazilian Navy, have arrived at the incident site and have joined the ongoing search, rescue and recovery operation.

“Their teams will support diving operations and other specialised recovery activities. A total of 19 vessels and three aircraft are now engaged in the operations,” he said, adding that the Guyana Defence Force, Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration Department have deployed the smaller vessels to conduct searches for the inland in an effort to locate any remaining passengers.

Prime Minister Phillips told reporters that technical teams continue to carry out detailed assessments of the capsized vessel to determine the “safest and most effective method” for improving access for the diving

Regional News

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teams operating at the site and that the current recovery plan involves repositioning the vessel before installing marine salvage airbags.

He said these buoyancy balloons around the wreckage to restore buoyancy and once afloat “the vessel will be towed closer to the shoreline to facilitate further search and recovery operations”.

Guyana has declared three days of national mourning, which started yesterday, “in honour of those who lost their lives in this tragedy.

Phillips said during this period all national flags are to be flown at half-mast and that yesterday, has also been declared a national day of prayer

“Members of the public are invited to gather at the Kingston seawall at 6 p.m. (local time) for a national service of prayer and reflection. A night of reflection and prayer will be held at Port Kaituma (tomorrow)...and in Mabaruma (tomorrow),” Phillips said.

He said the government “remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the ongoing recovery effort providing assistance to affected families and ensuring that every available resource continues to be deployed until the operation is complete”.

The authorities also announced that a third person had been taken in for questioning by the police as the investigations continue into the cause of the fatal incident.

“The third person who has been arrested is...the Superintendent who oversaw the loading of the boat. My understanding is that he was invited in for questioning by the CID, to explain his actions and he turn up with a lawyer and they detained him for further questioning.”

Earlier this week, the captain and a crew member had been arrested after they were found to have failed a drugs test.

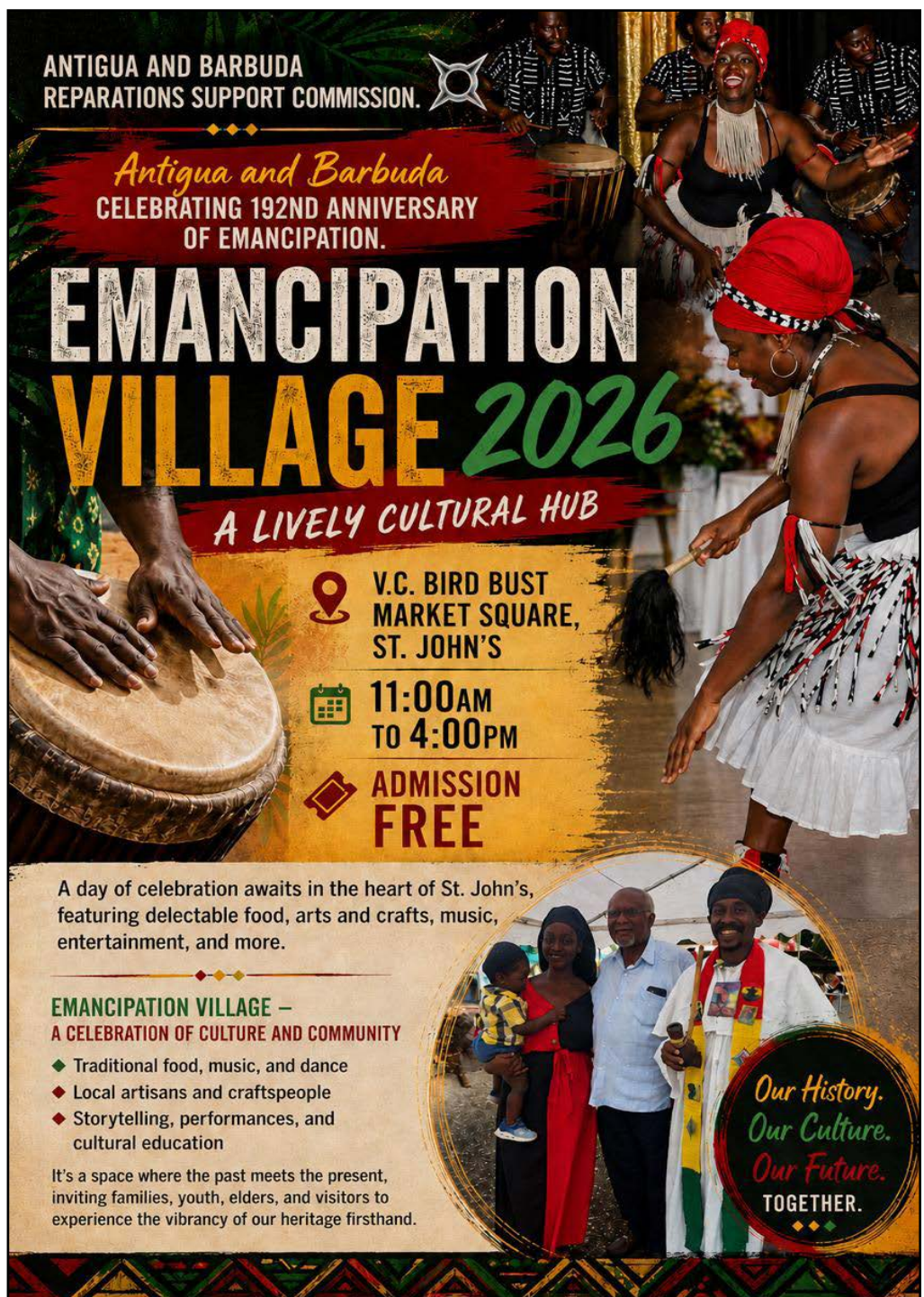
Prime Minister Phillips said it is too

early to determine what charges, if any, would be brought against any, saying “you know they will take statements and the (Director of Public Prosecutions) will do their technical work and make their recommendations.

“That process has started. If they want more time they will go back and ask for another 72 hours. Okay, we have to follow the law here. I think we must leave this press conference

with the understanding that we are following the established law, following established procedures in keeping with police investigative work,” Prime Minister Phillips added.

The official manifest had 116 passengers and a 17 member crew, but the authorities said that as many as 179 passengers and crew may have been on board the vessel. (Trinidad Express)



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ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES CLERK

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES CLERK
OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS BURSAR
(Salary Range: \$27,099.51 - \$40,612.01)

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Post and/or record customer payments and transactions relating to The UWI FIC's accounts receivables
- Create and submit invoices to the Campus' students/debtors
- Receive cash, cheque, and credit payments from students/debtors
- Preparing bank deposits for the funds collected daily
- Reconciling the cash collected with the receipts issued each day
- Research customer discrepancies and past due amounts
- Copy, file and retrieve material for accounts receivables
- Update digital files in The UWI FIC's Financial Management System
- Relay changes of information to appropriate employees/departments/stakeholders
- Perform any other duty that relates to their job function

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- Associate's degree in Accounting, Finance or any other relevant field of work or equivalent qualification
- One year experience in an accounting or financial role

Candidates who possess the following will be at a distinct advantage:

- Experience with accounting software and/or financial information systems
- Advanced working knowledge of Microsoft Suite

Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation) and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to **The Manager – Employee Success Department, Office of the Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.**

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CAMPUS COUNSELLOR

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

CAMPUS COUNSELLOR

OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

(Salary range: XCD\$102,021.00 - XCD\$109,866.00)

The incumbent will be responsible for the support provided to students to assist them to maximise their university experience with The UWI. The counselling service supports the campus community in addressing issues or concerns through a range of activities including one-on-one and group counselling, workshops, and advocacy. Through a comprehensive, student-centered counselling approach, the Campus Counsellor provides educational assistance and structured programming to facilitate positive growth and development.

QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- Master's Degree in Counselling, Psychology, Social Work or a related discipline required.
- Minimum of five years' experience in counselling or a related discipline.
- Professional counselling experience required, in a college/university setting preferred.
- Licensure in Mental Health Counselling preferred.

Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, a curriculum vitae (CV) giving particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of at least three (3) references (one of whom should be from your current organization), and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to **The Manager – Employee Success Department, Office of the Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.**

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VACANCY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
EXAMINATIONS UNIT
OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS REGISTRAR**
(Salary range: XCD\$32,519.65 - XCD\$48,735.33)

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Provide administrative support to the Assistant Registrar – Examinations in the administration of the University's policies, rules, and regulations pertaining to functions of the unit.
- Assist with the administrative and physical arrangements involved in preparing for and conducting examinations, and support the compilation and publication of results.
- Support the preparation for and execution of the annual Graduation Ceremonies.
- Process requests for and issue transcripts, and assist with the printing and issuing of degree certificates.
- Control and issue Academic Gowns.
- Support Boards of Examiners meetings, including preparing documentation and recording minutes.
- Assist with the preparation of final examination schedules.
- Assist in resolving examination scheduling queries.
- Perform other job-related duties as assigned by the Assistant Registrar – Examinations.

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- Minimum of an accredited Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Business Administration, Educational Administration or any related field.
- Minimum of five years' experience in providing administrative support; preferably at an institution of higher learning.

Completed degrees from an accredited institution that is above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience.

Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation) and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to **The Manager – Employee Success Department, Office of the Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.**

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The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua on **September 1, 2026**.

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VACANCY FUNCTIONAL ANALYST

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

FUNCTIONAL ANALYST OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS REGISTRAR

(Salary range: XCD\$102,021.00 - XCD\$109,866.00)

Reporting on the functional side of the institution's records management systems, the Functional Analyst determines departmental requirements and supports the configuration, testing, and evaluation needed to bring these systems into operation and keep them running effectively. The role also involves shaping and maintaining the business processes and procedures the system supports, while liaising with functional staff to ensure records and information management needs are met in day-to-day operations. Bringing strong technical know-how to the position, the incumbent reports to the Assistant Registrar – Enterprise Resource Management to support the system's adoption and continued upkeep across the institution's business units and sites.

QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or a related field.
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in SQL report writing.
- General knowledge of Enterprise Business Applications.
- At least two (2) years' experience in an enterprise support organization or service provider environment working with and providing solutions to end-users of IT systems.
- Experience in the use of PeopleSoft Human Resource Management Information System and Banner Financial applications will be an asset.

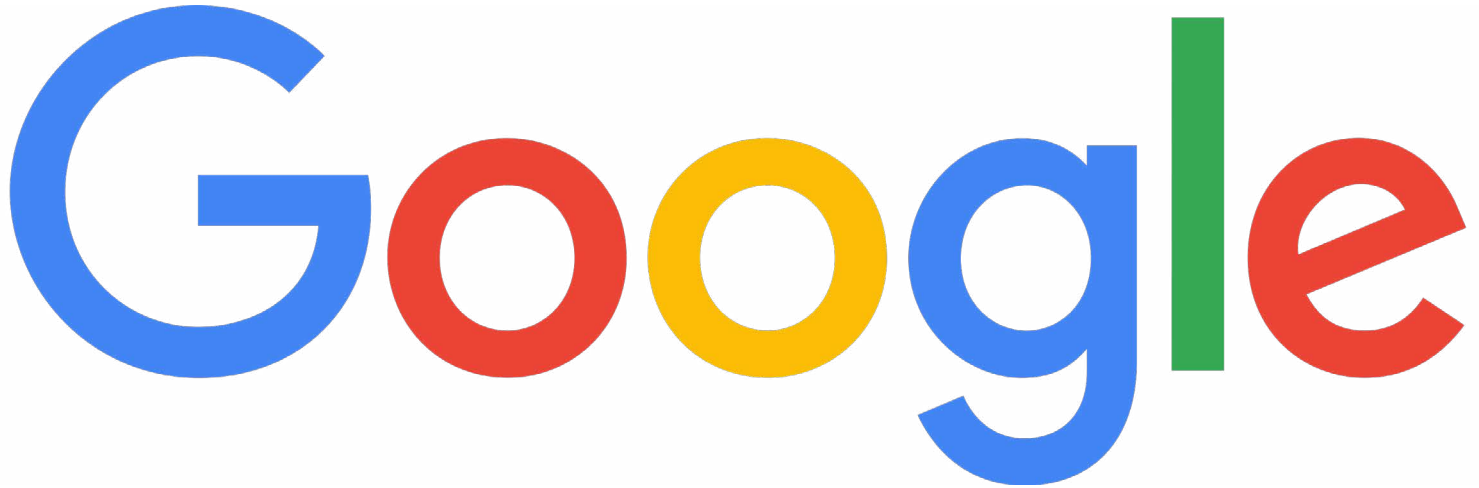
Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, a curriculum vitae (CV) and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to the **Manager – Employee Success Department, The Office of the Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.**

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EU hits Google with \$1 billion fine over its Play app store and search



The European Union on Thursday hit Google with a fine of 890 million euros (\$1 billion) after it said the technology behemoth broke digital antitrust regulations by setting up Google Play and its ubiquitous search engine to corral consumers towards its own services and apps to the detriment of competitors.

It was the latest major crackdown on Big Tech by Brussels, which has led the world in reining in some of the world's largest companies from Silicon Valley to Beijing.

It has done so despite the risk of incurring the wrath of President Donald Trump, who has lashed out at the 27-nation bloc's digital regulations amid a broader campaign against Europe: imposing high tariffs, making threats to seize Greenland from Denmark by force, and rattling trust within the NATO military alliance.

In the past, Trump has threatened retaliation if American tech companies are penalized.

Google had recently lost its appeal of a \$4.5 billion antitrust fine imposed by the EU for throttling competition and reducing consumer choice through the dominance of its mobile Android operating system.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive branch and highest antitrust enforcer, said it was acting in the interest of consumers after an investigation of Google.

"The best products should succeed because they're better, not because they're owned by the company running the search engine. And European consumers have a right to be told by app developers where to sign up to the best offers, even when the app store owner does not get a cut," said Teresa Ribera, the commission's Executive Vice President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition.

Google's President of Global Affairs Kent Walker blasted the fine as "product degradation driven by a small group of self-serving complainants"

that will have a negative impact on European businesses and consumers.

He said that the EU's Digital Markets Act forces Google "to strip away real-time search features Europeans love — like instant pricing and direct availability for hotels, flights, and restaurants — and dismantle safety protections on Google Play."

The EU describes the world's seven tech giants — Amazon, Apple, Google parent Alphabet, Meta, Microsoft and TikTok owner ByteDance — as "gatekeepers" that control access for consumers.

"In the EU, businesses have the right to compete fairly. Gatekeepers have the obligation to ensure a level playing field and consumers the right to choose for cheaper alternative offers," European Commission spokesperson Thomas Regnier said. Alphabet reported \$403 billion in revenue in 2025. (AP)



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France evacuates 20,000 as wildfires spread in south-west



About 12,000 people have been evacuated from the south-west of France and authorities are moving 8,800 others as wildfires spread in the Gironde region, the local prefect has said.

Sophie Brocas told reporters 2,400 hectares (5,900 acres) of land had already been destroyed around the Bay of Arcachon.

Many of those who had to leave the area overnight were visitors to local campsites on the Lège-Cap-Ferret peninsula and the latest evacuations also involved campsites as a precaution.

Wildfires have also broken out in Spain and Italy in recent days. Residents were evacuated near Toledo south of Madrid and a firefighter died after falling ill while tackling a blaze in Sicily.

The Gironde prefect said 10,000 visitors were among those evacu-

ated from campsites overnight and the latest evacuations were going ahead "calmly" in the village of Claouey, on the shore of Arcachon Bay.

Brocas said no injuries had been reported. Some sites and roads were being closed in exposed forest areas.

"The work was relentless all night," said Gironde fire service chief Marc Vermeulen, who warned that temperatures were rising and the wind was getting stronger. "It'll peak at 20:00. Then we'll have to deal with... highly variable winds so we're currently tackling a fire that is going to be difficult to predict and that's why we cannot relax our guard."

Two local firefighters died earlier this week fighting another fire close to Bordeaux airport.

Yassmina de Freitas, 19, who lives in the coastal town of Le Porge, said she noticed smoke and the smell of burning at lunchtime on Wednesday.

By the afternoon "ash... [and] half-burned tree bark" were falling, the sky was "very dark" and the smoke was getting "thicker and thicker".

At around 20:00 local time (19:00 BST), her family was evacuated by law enforcement and taken to a gymnasium in a neighbouring town. They had to leave two of their cats and four chickens behind as they could not be found in the flurry to leave.

She said she could not sleep at all and was waking up every hour to check the fire's progress.

"I could see the number of hectares burned rising steadily," she said.

BBC South presenter Jo Kent is on holiday with her family in France, staying at the Lesley Pastourelles campsite in Claouey, next to Lège.

She said multiple people at the campsite who were very anxious about the situation had already left.

International

AROUND THE WORLD



The main road down to the south of the peninsula, which is normally filled with “nose to tail traffic”, was empty and the supermarket is “unnervingly quiet”, Kent added.

In the Var region in south-east France, evacuated residents were told they could go home to assess potential damage to properties on Thursday morning. However, it warned people to limit their movements in the area due to the risk of the fire re-igniting as the wind picks up through the afternoon.

Several French departments have been ravaged by wildfires during a series of unusual and prolonged heatwaves that have swept across Europe this summer.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez paid tribute to the two firefighters who died on Tuesday near Bordeaux airport - expressing his “infinite gratitude” and “unwavering support” to their families.

In Italy, authorities have paid tribute to a firefighter who died tackling a wildfire in San Cataldo, as Sicily’s regional leader Renato Schifani wished a “speedy recovery” to another firefighter involved in the same operation.

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantadosi paid tribute to late firefighter Alessandro Marchi who he said had died “in service to the community”.

In an update on Wednesday, head of the Sicilian Civil Protection Salvo Cocina said there had been more than 350 fires on the island including 10 major ones which led to precautionary evacuations.

He said the fires had human causes - adding that firefighting has become a social and public order problem.

Meanwhile, in Spain residents have begun returning to their homes after wildfires broke out in the village of Almorox near Toledo, south of Ma-

drid. Authorities said the fires were not yet under control and that some 890 hectares (2,200 acres) had been burned, although ongoing work had meant the perimeter of the fire had not grown.

Temperatures of at least 42C have been recorded in areas of Spain and the country’s biggest wildfire this year so far has been seen this week north of the capital in Guadalajara region.

More than 35,000 hectares have burned, leaving bleak images of destroyed landscapes, however author-

ities there say residents are now able to return to their homes.

Countries across Europe have seen record temperatures in recent months.

A report released in April by the Copernicus Climate Change Service found at least 95% of Europe saw “above average” annual temperatures in 2025 and identified Europe as the fastest-warming continent.

Wildfire-burnt area and fire emissions both reached record levels last year, the report said. (BBC)

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Oil surges to \$100 per barrel after Red Sea attacks



Oil prices rose Thursday to their highest level since early June after the latest Iran war escalation threatened severe new disruption to global supplies.

Brent crude oil, one of two key global benchmarks, rose more than 6% to more than \$100 per barrel in early Thursday trading. That is its highest level in eight weeks, since the end of May.

U.S. crude oil also jumped for a second straight day, rising more than 5% to almost \$92 per barrel — its highest level since June 11.

The new surge in prices comes after Tehran-backed Houthi rebels claimed attacks on two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea, following their announcement of a naval blockade on the kingdom.

It appeared to mark the first time since the Iran war began that ship attacks had spread beyond the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz, opening up a new front in the volatile conflict.

The Houthi threat is so unsettling to

oil markets because millions of barrels per day pass through the Bab el-Mandeb strait in order to reach global markets.

About 12% to 15% of global maritime trade worth more than \$1 trillion transits the waterway every year.

It has also served as an alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, where traffic remains largely at a standstill with ship crossings there falling to single digits Tuesday.

Since the start of the month, oil prices have now risen about 35%. Those prices are now higher by more than 60% since the start of the year.

Along with oil prices, gas prices have risen too.

The national average price Thursday rose to \$4.09 per gallon, up from \$4.06 Wednesday, according to motor club AAA data tracked by NBC News.

This has erased much of the progress toward lower prices that came after the United States and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in mid-June.

That deal has now collapsed, with President Donald Trump threatening Wednesday to blow up an Iranian bridge or power plant for every vessel attacked by Tehran.

Then, hours later, came the Houthi claim to have hit two tankers in the Red Sea.

The United Kingdom's Maritime Trade Office reported a tanker "being struck by an unknown projectile" north of the critical Bab el-Mandeb strait in the area. And the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported the Encelia was set ablaze by an attack while sailing overnight

in the Red Sea, citing an unidentified source from the General Authority of Transport. It did not mention the Layla.

"Inflation has remained top of the agenda for markets this morning," said Deutsche Bank's global head of macro research, Jim Reid, citing the jump higher in Brent oil. "Indeed, the strikes between the US and Iran show no sign of easing, and the Houthis said they targeted two oil tankers in the Red Sea yesterday, raising fears that the conflict is widening."

That worry about inflation as a result of higher oil and gas prices has driven bond yields higher this week as a result. Early Thursday, the U.S. 10-year Treasury bond was trading at 4.67%, its highest level since January 2025.

That 10-year bond has a heavy hand in steering consumer borrowing rates. On Wednesday, the average 30-year U.S. mortgage rate rose to 6.77%, its highest level since July 2025. (NBC)

Trump says Saudi Arabia must normalize Israel ties before nuclear deal is approved

President Donald Trump said Thursday that the nuclear deal between the United States and Saudi Arabia requires the kingdom to normalize relations with Israel — a significant condition not previously mentioned as the deal was announced.

There will be “no enrichment of material” under the agreement, he wrote on Truth Social, adding that the deal signed a day earlier “pertains only to non-military use.” Lawmakers and experts have raised concerns that the civil nuclear agreement could fuel nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

Trump added that the deal “is totally subject to Saudi Arabia joining the very respected and successful Abraham Accords.”

The U.S.-brokered agreements aimed at normalizing relations with Israel were forged during Trump’s first term, and signed by several majority Muslim countries including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, and later Sudan and Morocco. Their expansion across the Middle East has been a long-standing objective for Trump in his second term.

An agreement to normalize ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia had previously been a U.S. requirement for any deal allowing the Gulf kingdom to enrich uranium, but Saudi leaders have long insisted that would not be possible without meaningful progress toward a Palestinian state.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed the idea of Palestinian statehood, but his office said in a statement that Saudi Arabia joining the Abraham Accords “would be an historic leap forward for peace in the Middle East.”

The Energy Department said Wednesday that the agreements “lay the legal foundation for a decades-long, multi-billion-dollar partnership that advances several priority economic and strategic objectives, including nuclear nonproliferation.”



A senior administration official told NBC News on Wednesday that Trump had approved the deal, which was expected to be submitted to Congress for review.

It was not expected to require the most rigorous level of United Nations inspections or include a ban on uranium enrichment or reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, according to three people familiar with the agreement. They said the pact would allow U.S. companies to build a uranium enrichment facility in Saudi Arabia pending a joint U.S.-Saudi study examining whether such a step would be feasible.

Critics and nonproliferation groups have warned that such a deal could further the development of nuclear weapons in the region, when one of Trump’s stated aims for the Iran war was preventing Tehran from developing one.

Four people got a rare brain cancer. Their connection is a shuttered Army ammunition plant.

While Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman has said nuclear weapons are not his country’s aim, in a 2018 interview with CBS News he said: “Without a doubt if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible.”

There was no mention of the Abra-

ham Accords when the Energy Department announced the deal on X on Wednesday, although the text of the deal was not released, and the Trump administration has not publicly outlined its details.

It was signed by Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman.

The oil-rich kingdom did not mention Trump’s stipulations in its own release about the agreement, which said the deal would attempt to “diversify energy sources, advance cutting-edge technologies, and expand opportunities for cooperation and investment in ways that serve the mutual interests of the two friendly countries.”

Saudi Arabia is a member state of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which promotes peaceful nuclear work but also inspects nations to ensure they do not have clandestine atomic weapon programs. Based in Vienna, the agency reports to the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council.

Nuclear enrichment is part of the process of both civil nuclear power generation and, at higher grades of enrichment, the development of nuclear weapons. (NBC)



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THE UNIVERSITY
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CAMPUS

VACANCY CLERICAL ASSISTANT

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

**CLERICAL ASSISTANT
LIFELONG LEARNING UNIT**
(Salary Range: XCD \$27,099.51 - XCD \$33,843.73)

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Maintaining records, files, and information systems.
- Retrieving documents (e.g., mark sheets, application forms).
- Receiving and processing student/customer documents.
- Collating and dispatching documents.
- Assisting with office supplies requisitions.
- Disseminating information to customers.
- Assisting with preparation for seminars, conferences, and award ceremonies.
- Operating telephones and handling routine enquiries.
- Assisting with travel and itinerary arrangements as needed.

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- Five (5) CXC/GCE O' Level subjects, including Mathematics and English Language.
- Three (3) years' job-related experience.
- Excellent computer, internet, and interpersonal skills, with the ability to communicate effectively in a busy, customer-focused environment.

Applicants are required to submit a completed UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation) and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to **fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu** and addressed to **The Manager – Employee Success Department, Office of the Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.**

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THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS
CAMPUS

VACANCY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

(Salary range: XCD\$32,519.65 - XCD\$48,735.33)

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Provide administrative support to the Campus Principal
- Support administrative activities associated with the Campus Principal
- Manage the Campus Principal's appointments and/or travel arrangements
- Oversee the day-to-day management of supplies, equipment, and facilities for the Office of the Campus Principal
- Coordinate with staff within the Office of the Campus Principal on special initiatives
- Compose and prepare documentation and correspondence for the office
- Establish and maintain files and records for the office
- Organize and facilitate meetings and special events
- Perform other job-related duties as assigned by the Campus Principal

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- Minimum of an accredited Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Business Administration, Educational Administration or any related field
- Minimum of five years' experience in providing administrative support; preferably at an institution of higher learning

Completed degrees from an accredited institution that is above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience.

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Sports News

Fourth loss for Antigua Schools in Garfield Sobers Tournament



Antigua Schools cricket team

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

The Antiguan lost by five runs against Combermere School of Barbados in their final encounter, which was a playoff for 15th place.

Chasing 274 to win, Antigua Schools just fell short of their victory target as they were restricted to 268 for nine off their allotted 40 overs.

Middle-order batsman Keno Goodwin hit a top score of 88 off 80 balls, including eight fours and one six. Captain and opener Hosea Roberts struck 65 off 66 balls, including nine boundaries.

But only two other Antiguan managed to reach double figures. Leonardo Ducreuy got 32, and William Pitman made 17. Combermere's skipper Javed Worrell bagged three for 39, and

Khalik Forte claimed three for 44.

Batting first, Combermere School made 273 for seven off their 40 overs. Omari Daniel-Hood smashed 73 off 77 balls, including five fours and one six.

Opener Vinode Dhanraj slammed 57 off 37 balls, with four fours and four sixes. Khalik Forte hit 46 off 53 balls, and Naje Ward struck 36 off 40 balls. Combermere's total was boosted by a contribution of 29 extras, including 23 wides. Akez Francis captured three for 46.

The Antigua Schools suffered their third loss by 116 runs against the Top Level Academy of Guyana.

Top Level Academy batted first and scored 215 for eight off their 40 overs. In reply, Antigua Schools were bundled out for 99 in 24.5 overs.

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.

Fourth-place finish for the Leewards in CWI Under-19 men's tourney



Players of the Leeward Islands under-19 cricket team

The Leeward Islands Tropical Wave finished fourth in the CWI Rising Stars Under-19 Men's 50-over Championship, which concluded in Antigua on Wednesday.

Trinidad and Tobago easily disposed of the Leeward Islands by seven wickets in the playoff for third place in Bethesda to end the tournament on a winning note.

The Leeward Islands produced their worst batting performance of the competition to be skittled out for a paltry 88 in 26.5 overs after choosing to bat first.

Renaldo Fournillier was the main destroyer, grabbing three of the first four wickets to fall to orchestrate the collapse.

He claimed the wickets of top scorer Tanez Francis of Antigua for 22, along with those of fellow Antiguan and captain Matthew Miller and Kunal Tilokani to leave the Leewards struggling at 48 for four.

Eirette Richards, who made 19 and Lyhte Brown, who made 13, were the only other batters to score in double digits as the Leewards lost their last six wickets for 40 runs. Fournillier finished with four for 26 and Daron Dhanraj took two for 14.

In response, skipper Brendan Boodoo

then scored an unbeaten 49 off 46 balls to guide T&T to victory at 89 for three in 15.1 overs.

After the early losses of Christian Lall and Levi Ghanny for two and eight respectively, along with that of Ethan Ramcharan for 10, Boodoo and Tariq Richards shared an unbroken partnership of 41 runs for the fourth wicket, as T&T completed a comfortable victory.

Justin Parris cracked a superb century and grabbed five wickets to help Barbados to successfully defend their title. His efforts helped Barbados dominate Jamaica by 116 runs in the final at Ball Beef in Liberta, capping an unbeaten run in the competition.

Barbados expectedly captured their second successive title, thanks mainly to a standout performance from Justin Parris. Parris hit an even 100 as Barbados capped off a strong batting performance in the tournament by posting a competitive 320 for nine in their 50 overs.

Parish slammed 100 off 98 balls, with 12 fours and one six. Kelani Clarke hit a brisk 49 off 44 balls, Kemar Dixon struck 48, and R'Jai Gittens smashed 37 from 19 balls. Alixandre Elliot claimed four for 40, and Jahdae Moore took

three for 58.

Parris then returned to grab five wickets with his off spin, as Jamaica were bowled out for 204 in 43.5 overs. Parris snapped up five for 35, and Asher Branford bagged three for 19.

Demario Hall hit 47, and captain Pajay Nelson cracked 36 for Jamaica, who finished in the runners-up position. It was Barbados' sixth win on the trot and capped off one of the most dominant showings in the tournament's recent history.

Guyana defeated the Windward Islands in Pigotts to cop fifth place. Guyana exacted revenge on the Windward Islands by defeating them by 53 runs in the fifth-place playoff match.

Guyana, who lost to the Windwards in the final round of action on Monday, produced an impressive performance with the ball after their batters failed to fire for the second straight match.

Dhanesh Persaud scored 53 off 73 balls and Emmanuel Lewis made 43, but there was little other support, as Guyana was dismissed for 184 in 49.2 overs.

The pair shared a partnership of 92 runs after coming together with Guyana struggling at 72 for five in the 22nd over. When Lewis was dismissed by Theo Edward, Guyana lost their last five wickets for a mere 20 runs. Edwards captured three for 12.

After losing opener and captain Edward to the second ball of the innings, the pair of Derwin Lewis and Earshino Fontaine carried the fight to Guyana's bowlers in a partnership of 46 runs.

But once Lewis was trapped lbw by Adrian Hetmyer, the Windward Islands lost wickets at regular intervals to find themselves struggling at 76 for five.

Tyler Venner, who made 24 and Kavaughn Bartholomew, who scored 27, tried to rescue the innings in a 37-run stand, but Gilbert Griffith dismissed both batters to end any chance of a Windward Islands comeback. Griffith claimed four for 19, Romario Ramdehol took two for 13, and Hetmyer captured two for 38.

Sammy resigned to fact that Windies will have to go through qualifiers

BRIDGETOWN – Following their 3-2 One Day International (ODI) series loss to New Zealand, West Indies head coach Daren Sammy has accepted that the regional side will have to go through the Qualifiers to book their spot at the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

The Windies men began the series 10 points behind Bangladesh for the final automatic qualifying spot, and needing to win all five of their matches to have a realistic chance of overtaking them.

But after a winning start, they were let down by their batters, which resulted in them losing the next three matches before winning the fifth and final match at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Tuesday.

With just two more remaining ODIs against India in September, it is all but guaranteed that the West Indies will have to go through the World Cup Qualifiers, which will see the top four finishers assured a spot at the World Cup.

The Windies last played at the 2019 World Cup, having missed out on the 2023 event after they failed to advance out of the qualifiers.

While no dates or venues have yet been announced by the ICC for those qualifiers, speaking in a post-match press conference on Tuesday Sammy said he would love for them to be played in the Caribbean.

“We have no information on where and when it's going to be. We do understand though, the qualifying method, but as to when and where (we don't know). I did ask the director a question on that earlier this week and he's going to get back to me on that.



Daren Sammy

“If we have a choice, home is where the heart is. I'm pretty sure all the guys would love to play at home in Barbados, St. Lucia or even Antigua where we do quite well, but it's out of our hands. Actually, myself and the analyst we were checking during the game to see if there was a possibility, but it looks like we really have to go through the qualifiers and then book our place,” Sammy said.

Speaking on the series against New Zealand, the head coach said he was not satisfied with the result. Sammy said the home side's batting had let the team down for the majority of the five matches.

“No, 3-2 is not a fair result at all... before that Sri Lanka series we tried

to make home our fortress, and we were on the cusp of doing that. We won the last four series in a row before Sri Lanka, and we wanted to continue winning games.

“Guyana was a challenge, but yet we started off the series quite well. I think if we reflect and look back, too many opportunities we had to win, the batting really did let us down – especially batting first.

“It doesn't matter the score at home, when we're chasing it's just a boost of confidence for the guys and I think we really need to change that mindset...but I think 3-2, we were not looking for that result,” Sammy said.

CWI names Windies 15-member squad for Test Series against Pakistan

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against Pakistan, scheduled to be played in Trinidad and Tobago from July 25 to August 6.

The series will mark a significant occasion for Caribbean cricket with the opening match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy from July 25 to 29 being the first men's Test match ever staged at the venue, making it the 13th ground in the region to host Test cricket. The second encounter will take place at the historic Queen's Park Oval from August 2 to 6.

The West Indies have retained the core of the squad that secured a 1-0 Test series victory over Sri Lanka earlier this month, while rewarding strong domestic performances with the inclusion of left-arm orthodox spinner Joshua Bishop, who receives his maiden Test call-up.

Bishop, has been among the most consistent bowlers in regional cricket, claiming 91 wickets for the Barbados Pride and the West Indies Academy across the past three West Indies Championship seasons, the highest tally by any bowler during that period.

Returning to the squad is West Indies Academy graduate and Jamaica Scorpions batsman Kirk McKenzie, who earns his first Test recall since 2024 after opener John Campbell was ruled out with a left hamstring strain sustained during the recently concluded One-Day International (ODI) series against New Zealand.



Joshua James

McKenzie performed well over the course of this season's West Indies Championship, scoring 323 runs in six innings at an average of 64.60.

Antiguan fast bowler Alzarri Joseph was unavailable for selection due to personal reasons.

Full West Indies Test Squad: Ros-

ton Chase (captain), Jomel Warrican (vice-captain), Joshua Bishop, Tagnarine Chanderpaul, Joshua Da Silva, Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge, Shai Hope, Amir Jangoo, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Kirk McKenzie, Keemo Paul, Kemar Roach, and Jayden Seales.



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Benna Boys to face Mexico in CONCACAF U-20 Championship



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda national under-20 team in training in Mexico City ahead of campaign in the finals of the CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship. (Photo courtesy of the ABFA)

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys will open their campaign in the finals of the CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championship in Puebla, México, on Friday (today).

The young Antiguan under-20 national team will launch their campaign in Group B of the finals against host Mexico at the Estadio Cuauhtemoc in Puebla, Mexico, at 8 pm Caribbean time.

Antigua and Barbuda returns to the CONCACAF Under-20 Championship for their sixth appearance and first since the 2022 edition.

The Antiguan enjoyed a historic qualifying campaign by winning Group C in the 2026 CONCACAF Under-20 Qualifiers in Costa Rica in February with victories in all four group-stage matches, a first in the nation's history.

Antigua and Barbuda will compete in Group B alongside Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico as the young Benna Boys seek to advance to the knockout stage for the first time.

The young Benna Boys will face Guatemala on July 27 and tackle Costa Rica in their final group stage match on July 30.

The full national under-20 squad arrived in Mexico a week ago after departing Antigua on Thursday, July 2, as part of a 43-day training programme that took the players through St. Lucia, Panama, and Mexico City before arriving in Puebla, Mexico, for the CONCACAF tournament.

Of the Caribbean nations present, only Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti stand alongside Antigua and Barbuda.

Cuba will compete in Group A alongside El Salvador, Haiti, and the United

States, while Jamaica will contest Group C alongside Canada, Honduras, and Panama.

Defending champions Mexico will be making their 29th appearance in the competition as they seek to win consecutive CONCACAF Under-20 Championship titles for the second time under the current format, adding to their tournament-record 14 titles. The Mexicans will also aim to qualify for a record-extending 18th FIFA Under-20 World Cup.

Mexico will look to continue their attacking dominance after leading the 2024 tournament with 122 total shots and 13 goals, finishing as the competition's most prolific offensive side on their way to lifting the trophy.

The tournament is a qualifier to the FIFA Under-20 World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan in 2027.