

THURSDAY 06TH AUGUST 2026 | VOLUME 10 ISSUE 08 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

VCBIA Names New CEO

Story on page 2



India to assist with specialised training for local police officers

VCBIA Has New Chief Executive Officer

The Board of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority has announced the appointment of accomplished aviation executive Kurt A.G. Menal as Chief Executive Officer of the VC Bird International Airport.

In a media release the ABAA said the decision to name Menal as the new CEO was made following an extensive recruitment process spanning several months,

“The Board is thoroughly satisfied that, based on his accomplished career in international aviation, Menal is well positioned to lead the VC Bird International Airport through its next phase of growth and development.

“Menal’s appointment took effect August 1, 2026 and he brings to the operations of Antigua and Barbuda’s aerodrome some two decades of leadership experience in airport management and operations, strategic planning, and civil aviation across the Caribbean,” the statement indicated.

It said prior to his appointment, Menal served as Managing Director of the British Virgin Islands Airports Authority. He was responsible for successfully leading the three airports in the British territory by introducing initiatives that strengthened their operational performance and regulatory compliance while expanding overall commercial performance.

According to the release, in pursuing sustainable airport development initiatives, Menal helped to ensure the airports in the BVI played a pivotal role in the continued growth of the British Virgin Islands’ tourism-driven economy.

He also served as Manager of the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, overseeing the operations of one of the Caribbean’s busiest airport systems. As a result of his leadership of multidisciplinary teams, Menal was instrumental in improving the operational efficiency and the safety and



Kurt A.G. Menal as Chief Executive Officer of the VC Bird International Airport.

security standards of Trinidad and Tobago’s airports in accordance with international aviation standards.

Chairman of the ABBA Board, Rolston Potter, used the opportunity to express his sincere appreciation to the executive management team and staff who showed steady leadership and commitment during the recruitment process. In looking ahead, he expressed tremendous confidence in Menal’s ability to build on this strong foundation.

“Menal’s strategic vision, his extensive regional experience and collaborative leadership style, and proven record of delivering transformational results convinced us that he is exceptionally well suited to lead the Authority into its next phase of growth,” Pot-

ter explained.

“The Board feels assured that, under his leadership, the VC Bird International will continue to enhance its reputation as a modern, world-class gateway while supporting Antigua and Barbuda’s economic development and tourism expansion.”

Menal holds a Master of Science in Air Transport Management. He is also an International Airport Professional through Airports Council International’s Global Airport Management Professional Accreditation Programme, and is a Chartered Director (C. Dir).

His internationally recognized credentials reflect a steadfast commitment to excellence in airport leadership, strategic governance, and executive management.

India Continues Its Support For Antigua and Barbuda's Hosting of CHOGM

The Government of India continues to demonstrate its support for Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November in very tangible ways.

The latest demonstration of this support comes through the High Commission of India as it continues to strengthen its partnership with Antigua and Barbuda by delivering on its commitment to support capacity building ahead of the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

Following ongoing consultations between the High Commissioner of India, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Commissioner of Police, a Special Protocol and Security Training Programme will be conducted for 30 officers of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

The programme is aimed at enhancing the officers' skills in protocol, security management, and VIP protection in preparation for the high-level international event.

Honorary Consul General of India in Antigua and Barbuda, Vijay Tewani, welcomed the initiative, stating that it reflects the enduring friendship and growing bilateral cooperation between India and Antigua and Barbuda. He expressed appreciation to both Governments for their continued com-



mitment to deepening collaboration across areas of mutual interest and strengthening the longstanding partnership between the two countries.



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Machel Montano and Minister Michael Freeland Discuss Raising Antigua Carnival's Global Profile



Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism Michael Freeland with soca superstar Machel Montano

Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism Michael Freeland has held informal discussions with soca superstar Machel Montano on ways Antigua and Barbuda can strengthen its Carnival product, attract more international visitors and compete more aggressively with other major Caribbean festivals.

The two spoke on the sidelines of the recently concluded Antigua Carnival celebrations, with their con-

versation focusing on the potential for the country to position the annual festival as an even bigger tourism attraction.

A key point raised during the discussion was Antigua Carnival's ability to distinguish itself from competing regional festivals, including Barbados' Crop Over.

Montano pointed to several strengths already possessed by Antigua and Barbuda, including the country's established Carnival culture and

its two major days of mas.

The discussion also touched on the potential for greater celebrity involvement and international promotion to encourage more visitors to travel to Antigua specifically for Carnival.

With major Caribbean festivals increasingly competing for international travelers, celebrities, influencers and members of the Caribbean diaspora, the conversation centred on how Antigua can make better use of what it already has.

For Freeland, who has Carnival responsibility within the tourism portfolio, the exchange provided an opportunity to hear the perspective of one of the Caribbean's most internationally recognised soca artistes on how Antigua Carnival could expand its reach.

Among the ideas discussed was the importance of promoting Antigua's two days of mas as a major selling point, while exploring opportunities to attract more celebrities and high-profile personalities who can generate additional international attention for the festival.

The conversation also considered how Antigua Carnival can rival the popularity and international pull of

Barbados' Crop Over, while maintaining its own identity and traditions.

Antigua Carnival, billed as the Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival, brings together music, mas, pageantry, cultural activities and major entertainment events, culminating in the traditional Carnival Monday and Tuesday celebrations.

The informal exchange between Freeland and Montano could help fuel a wider conversation about taking the festival beyond being primarily a national cultural celebration and further developing it as a major regional tourism product capable of attracting thousands more overseas visitors.

With Antigua and Barbuda already boasting strong air-lift, an established tourism industry, beaches, accommodation and a vibrant entertainment culture, stakeholders have increasingly viewed Carnival as an opportunity to drive additional visitor arrivals during the summer period.

The challenge now is how to package, market and promote the experience internationally so that Antigua Carnival becomes a must-attend event on the global Caribbean festival calendar.

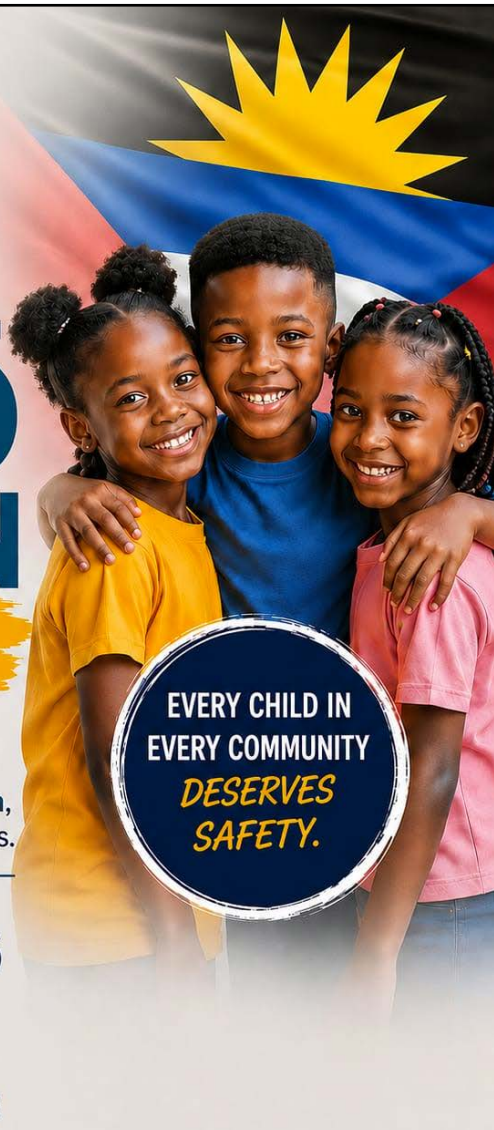

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National Child Protection Town Hall Set For August 25




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operation among parents, guardians, communities, government agencies and other stakeholders in creating environments where children can grow and develop free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner, said the upcoming discussion is intended to reinforce the shared responsibility that exists to protect every child.

“Protecting our children cannot be the responsibility of government or the Child Protection Services alone. It requires parents, families, schools, churches, communities and every citizen to play their part. Every child, regardless of where they live or their circumstances, deserves to feel safe, protected and valued. This town hall is about listening, confronting the challenges and

working together on solutions that will strengthen the systems we have in place to protect our children.”

The Ministry is encouraging members of the public to participate in the discussion, recognizing that child protection cannot be the responsibility of any single agency or institution.

The National Child Protection Town Hall Meeting forms part of the Ministry’s broader efforts to strengthen awareness and encourage greater public involvement in safeguarding children throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

A National Child Protection town hall meeting is slated for later this month, bringing together stakeholders and members of the public for a national conversation focused on protecting children and creating safer communities across Antigua and Barbuda.

Organised by the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, the event will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre.

Under the theme, “Every Child in Every Community Deserves

Safety”, the town hall is expected to provide an important platform for discussion on child protection, strengthening families and the collective responsibility of communities to safeguard the nation’s children.

The initiative comes as the Ministry continues to place greater emphasis on ensuring that children are protected and that families and communities are equipped to recognize and respond to issues affecting their safety and wellbeing.

The national conversation will also reinforce the importance of co-

Ministry of Health Congratulates Dr. Kronsie Dickenson on Prestigious International Fellowship



The Ministry of Health extends congratulations to Dr. Kronsie Dickenson-Foster, Acting Senior Dental Consultant, on her induction as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists (FICD) during the College's Convocation Ceremony held recently in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Fellowship of the International College of Dentists is one of the highest honours in the dental profession. Founded in 1920, the International College of Dentists is among the world's oldest and most prestigious honorary dental organisations. Fellowship is conferred by invitation upon dentists who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, professional excellence, humanitarian service, and outstanding contributions to the ad-

vancement of dentistry and the communities they serve.

Dr. Dickenson-Foster's induction is a testament to her unwavering commitment to excellence in oral healthcare and her dedicated service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. In her role as Acting Senior Dental Consultant, she has consistently championed preventive oral healthcare initiatives and has played an integral role in strengthening the delivery of public dental services across the nation.

In addition to her leadership within the public health sector, she currently serves as Vice President of the Antigua and Barbuda Dental Association, where she continues to contribute to the advancement of the dental profes-

sion both locally and regionally.

Minister of Health, Michael Joseph, commended Dr. Dickenson-Foster on this remarkable achievement.

"The Ministry recognises that Dr. Dickenson's accomplishment exemplifies the high standard of healthcare professionals serving Antigua and Barbuda and reflects the Ministry's ongoing commitment to strengthening healthcare services through excellence, leadership, and continuous professional development."

The Ministry wishes continued success to Dr. Kronsie Dickenson on this well-deserved honour as she advances the profession of dentistry and improves the oral health and wellbeing of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister's Vision Initiative Reports Early Success



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



Minister of Health Michael Joseph



Just one week after it was officially launched, the Prime Minister's Vision Initiative is reporting a strong response from the key target group residents of Antigua and Barbuda who are 40-years and older.

The Ministry of Health, one of the key partners in this initiative, is reporting that already approximately 300 people have already taken advantage of the opportunity to acquire reading glasses free of cost.

"The free eye screening programme continues to make a meaningful difference, providing vision screenings and reading glasses to persons aged 40 and older.

The initiative is currently taking place at the Villa Community Center and will remain there for the next two weeks before moving to the Gray's Green Community Center," the ministry announced in a statement.

The ministry is advising residents 40 years or older not to miss this opportunity to improve their vision. "We look forward to seeing even more people benefit from this important initiative," the statement noted.

The initiative was formally launched last Thursday at a ceremony held at the Villa Polyclinic.



Calvin Ayre Foundation Supports Urgent Medical Transfer for Cardiac Patient Through Partnership with MBS

The Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF), in collaboration with the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS), has once again provided assistance to a citizen requiring urgent overseas medical care by supporting the medical travel of Ulysis James to Martinique for specialised cardiac treatment.

James was admitted to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre after suffering an acute ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), commonly known as a heart attack. Despite receiving appropriate emergency treatment, he later developed recurrent chest pain and further clinical findings indicating the need for urgent specialist intervention not currently available in Antigua.

Following assessment by his medical team, James was referred to CHU de Martinique, where he will undergo specialised cardiac treatment.

The Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS)



approved funding to cover the full cost of James' medical treatment while The Calvin Ayre Foundation supplemented this support by covering the patient's medical travel expenses, ensuring he could access the urgent care required without unnecessary delay.

James' daughter, Shereen James Galloway, expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the support her family received throughout the process.

"The support we received went far beyond financial assistance. The kind-



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Local News

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ness, compassion and professionalism shown by the Calvin Ayre Foundation, CalvinAir, EMT Jeremias Samuel, and everyone involved made an incredibly

difficult journey so much easier for our family. They gave us hope when we needed it most, and we will always be grateful.”

Patrice Jacobs, Media and Production Associate at the Calvin Ayre Foundation, said the Foundation remains committed to working alongside its healthcare partners to ensure that financial barriers do not prevent patients from accessing critical medical care.

“Medical emergencies often require swift action, and we’re proud to work alongside the Medical Benefits Scheme to help patients receive specialised treatment when it is not available locally. Every successful transfer represents another opportunity for hope and recovery.”

The Calvin Ayre Foundation extends its best wishes to James and his family and hopes for a successful procedure and a full recovery.

This latest collaboration highlights the importance of strong partnerships between the Foundation and the Medical Benefits Scheme in helping Antiguan and Barbudans access life-saving treatment abroad when local options are unavailable.



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Charity Run/Walk Launched to Support Vulnerable Young Women



A fund-raising run/walk is planned for early next month the proceeds from which will go towards the Salvation Army's Sunshine Home for Girls located near Johnson's Point.

The event, a Charity Run/Walk, will take place on Saturday, September 5, 2026 beginning promptly at 5:00 a.m. from South Mall in Ebenezer to Turners Beach, covering a scenic five-mile route. Individuals, families, corporate teams, schools, churches, community organizations, and exercise groups are encouraged to participate in what promises to be a morning of fitness, fellowship, and community spirit.

The Charity Run/Walk is being held to raise funds for the Sunshine Home for Girls (SHFG), which currently provides a safe, stable, and nurturing environment for girls between the ages of 9 and 18 years. The Home is committed to empowering these girls by providing shelter, care, educational support, life skills training, and opportunities that help them build brighter and more independent futures.

"Every step taken during this event is a step toward changing a young life," said Major Violet Ezech of The Salvation Army. "We are inviting the entire nation to come together in support of these remarkable young women and to demonstrate the com-

passion and generosity for which Antigua and Barbuda is known."

To maximise the benefit to the Home, organizers are seeking sponsorship from the corporate community to help offset event expenses. This

will ensure that most of the funds raised through participant registration and public donations go directly toward meeting the needs of the girls and supporting the Home's ongoing programmes.

Registration is \$50 and community members who may not wish to participate in the Run/Walk are also invited to contribute by donating or encouraging others to register. Further registration details and additional event information will be announced in the coming weeks through traditional and social media platforms.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of the young women of the Sunshine Home for Girls, one step at a time.



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Four People Who Tried To Cash A Stolen Cheque Are Now In Custody



The police have arrested and detained four individuals in connection with an ongoing fraud investigation following an incident at a business establishment on Lower All Saints Road.

Preliminary investigations indicate



that the suspects allegedly attempted to cash a cheque that was reportedly stolen.

The owner of the business became suspicious during the transaction and immediately contacted the police.

All four suspects were taken into custody.

The Police Administration is encouraging all business owners, financial institutions, and employees who process financial transactions to remain on heightened alert when dealing with cheques and other negotiable instruments.

Businesses are urged to carefully verify the authenticity of cheques, confirm the identity of individuals presenting them, and report any suspicious transactions to the police immediately.






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**BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE - CARIBBEAN
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“Caribbean Islands Unite For Phase-II in the Groundbreaking ‘Stop the Pops’ Environmental Campaign”

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), proudly announces the launch of the “Stop the Pops” Communications Awareness Campaign (Phase II) in Antigua and Barbuda.

This pivotal initiative is part of the broader Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) Programme, aiming to address critical environmental issues in the Caribbean.

The second phase of the “Stop the Pops” campaign is a response to the urgent need for sustainable waste management and chemical control

in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Recognizing the challenges posed by the open burning of waste, a practice prevalent across the Caribbean, this campaign focuses on raising awareness about the dangers of Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) and promoting best available techniques and environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to minimize their emissions.

The campaign aims to develop a widespread awareness of UPOPs and their environmental and health impacts. It will promote Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) to prevent and minimize UPOPs emissions from open burning of waste in the Caribbean region. The campaign will also deploy a mobile application for effective monitoring and management of UP-

OPs in Belize with hopes of future expansion among the participating countries.

The campaign will actively engage stakeholders across eleven other Caribbean countries, including The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, The Dominican Republic, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Representatives from National Working Groups (NWGs), environmental experts, and local communities will play an integral part in the campaign’s execution.

To find out more about the campaign you can visit the campaign’s digital awareness component on Instagram (@analytical_services_anu) or Facebook (@The Department of Analytical Services Antigua and Barbuda).



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The Carnival We Celebrate, The Environment We Protect

A bottle in your hand,
Can help to heal the land.
A can upon the ground,
Is treasure waiting to be found.

Waste is not the end,
It's a chance for us to mend.
What others throw away today,
Can build tomorrow in a better way.

Carnival brings joy and light,
Morning, noon, and through the night.
Music echoes, people sing,
Celebrating everything.
Yet when the final song is done,
Our work has only just begun.

Plastic here and bottles there,
Glass and cans are everywhere.
But with Green Teams standing tall,
We can make a difference for all.



Separate it where it starts,
That's the message in our hearts.

From the source we make the change,
Simple actions rearrange.
Cleaner streets and cleaner seas,
Growing stronger communities.



Forty-eight bags filled with pride,
Plastic rescued, set aside.
Twenty-nine more packed with cans,
Collected by determined hands.
Glass bottles counted one by one,
Showing what can truly be done.

Every bottle tells a tale,
Proof that hope will never fail.
Every can that's safely saved,
Marks another future paved.
Every piece of shining glass,
Shows how change can come to pass.

One day glass will turn to sand,
Helping build across the land.
Roads and gardens, paths and parks,
Bright ideas from simple sparks.

Feature

Innovation starts quite small,
Then grows strong enough for all.

Waste creates employment too,
Meaningful and honest work to do.
Drivers, sorters, leaders, teams,
Building brighter island dreams.
People working side by side,
Restoring purpose, hope, and pride.



A teddy bear stood big and bright,
Built from bottles shining white.
Thousands stopped to take a look,
Learning lessons no textbook
Could ever teach in quite the way
That art inspired throughout the day.

Waste is beauty, waste is worth,
Hidden treasures from the earth.
Not just rubbish tossed aside,
But opportunities worldwide.
Change begins with me and you,
Simple things that we can do.

Businesses can lead the way,
Choosing greener every day.
Bands can join the growing call,
Green Teams working through it all.
Schools and homes can play their part,
Changing habits from the start.

Seventy years is drawing near,
A milestone worthy of good cheer.
Let's not celebrate the same,
While adding pressure, waste, and blame.
Let our nation's birthday shine,
With cleaner beaches by design.

From January, let us see,
A greener Antigua, bold and free.
Less to bury, more to save,
Choosing courage over the grave
Of bottles, cans, and shattered glass,
Waiting for the years to pass.

Together we can change the tide,
With every citizen beside.
One small action every day,
Will slowly light a brighter way.
One clean event becomes two more,
Then spreads from shore to distant shore.

The future isn't far away,
It's built by what we choose today.
Lift the bottle, save the can,
Do the very best you can.
Waste is wealth for those who see,
The power of community.

So when the music fills the air,
Remember that we all must care.
For every choice that we embrace,
Leaves tomorrow in its place.
Let's build a future bold and grand,
With cleaner hearts and cleaner land.

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Regional News

UHWI at fault...Ordered to pay millions in teen's death

The University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) has been ordered to pay millions in damages after the Supreme Court found that the facility “fell below the standard of care” expected of it and also “breached the duty of care” provided to a 16-year-old girl, who died six days after being admitted to the hospital in March 2018.

The girl's parents later sued the hospital's board of management for failing to “use all proper professional skill, care, competence, and diligence during their investigation, diagnosis, management, and treatment of their only child”.

The court on Friday awarded \$1,687,380.19 “for pain and suffering” endured by the child prior to her death. For loss of life/loss of expectation of life, the court awarded \$344,127.70 with interest at three per cent per annum from April 15, 2021 to July 31 this year. In assessing how much the child, who was described as “a perennial high achiever” and a “polyglot” (a person who knows, speaks, or writes several different languages) would have lost in terms of earnings from before the trial to the last hearing date the court awarded \$6 million. In satisfying the parent's claims for special damages, the court awarded \$975,573.41 plus interest of three per cent per annum, from the date she died to the date the judgement was handed down. It also awarded US\$8,000 in respect of the report prepared by the expert witness relied on in the case.

The teenager who was described as “an accomplished and promising fifth-form student at Campion College, St Andrew” was preparing to sit the May/June sitting of the Caribbean Secondary Examination Council (CSEC) examinations at the time of her passing. She was said to have “entrepreneurial dreams and aspirations



to become a scientist or a medical researcher”.

According to the civil negligence and estate lawsuit filed by her parents in the civil division of the Supreme Court in 2021, the young girl, on or around March 30, 2018 was admitted by the UHWI for treatment at its medical facility. Her mother said the ordeal began on March 27, 2018 when her daughter complained of what had become a persistent headache. She said after being examined by the family doctor, her daughter — who had also been warm to the touch — was prescribed medication. When that headache persisted three days later,

along with weakness the parents — who said they began to “suspect that their daughter was suffering from another bout of meningitis, an illness with which she had been diagnosed at the age of eight years” — decided to take her to the UHWI.

Once there, they said they informed medical staff of her symptoms and history of meningitis as well as their suspicions. The parents said on March 31 after blood samples, a CT scan and an unsuccessful lumbar puncture procedure (which was to be done over), they were informed that their daughter was suffering from hemiplegic migraine. After some 18 seizures and

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Regional News

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two heart attacks, the teen who had also been placed on life support was pronounced dead on April 5, 2018.

Unmoored and set adrift by the loss of their child, the parents asserted that they suffered emotional and psychiatric distress. The father alleged that he became unable to focus, depressed and angry, making it difficult for him to hold onto a job. His wife maintained that, as a sales manager, the mental distress caused by, and the toll of, her daughter's death affected her so drastically that she could not do her job as well as she did before.

According to court documents two medical professionals who gave evidence on behalf of the hospital maintained that the UHWI and its medical teams acted in accordance with standard practices and that there were no actions of negligence in the diagnosis, treatment and/or management of the teen.

However the court, in choosing to rely on the evidence of an expert witness called by the parents, said there were "aspects of negligence on the part of the UHWI, which are of great concern".

"The documentary evidence discloses that, during the course of [her] admission to the UHWI, it was noted on three separate occasions that a diagnosis of meningitis was to be ruled out... in fact, it is readily apparent from the medical docket that no further attempt was made to rule out or to exclude the differential diagnosis of meningitis. This court is of the view that there is an absolute need for a physician to ensure that sufficient tests and detailed investigations are conducted before ruling out one disease over another. Negligence must be ascribed to the UHWI, by its servants and/or agents, for its failure to properly employ all usual diagnostic aids in ruling out the possibility of meningitis, including a lumbar puncture test," the court said.

"The court finds that the UHWI was negligent in the failure on the part of its servants and/or agents to recognise

that [name withheld] was brain-dead on 1 April 2018 at 11:00 pm. The evidence of the rapid deterioration in [the child's] condition in the five days following her admission to the UHWI is concerning," said the ruling handed down by Supreme Court Justice Anne-Marie Nembhard.

"The court finds that there was no clear plan of treatment, on the part of the servants and/or agents of the UHWI, to treat [her] in the face of her rapid deterioration, whilst being ad-

mitted as a patient to the UHWI. Nor does there seem to have been a corresponding, commensurate escalation in the UHWI's plan of treatment or course of treatment in the face of her rapid deterioration," the justice added.

In additional findings, the court said based on the evidence of the expert witness, an accurate diagnosis could have been arrived at, had a lumbar puncture been performed. (Jamaica Observer)



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Regional News



Guyana gov't ends MV Barima search and recovery exercise

The Guyana government on Tuesday said that the search and recovery operations following the MV Barima tragedy, resulting in the deaths of 73 people and more than 30 others missing and presumed dead, have ended.

A brief statement from the Office of the Prime Minister said that, "however, the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre remains operational" and that "there has been no change in the status of the identification of the recovered bodies".

The MV Barima sank on July 18 as it made its way from Georgetown to Port Kaituma. A total of 76 people were rescued during the morning after the ferry went down, but since then there has been no other recovery.

The Ministry of Health is still seeking the public's help in identifying the remains of five individuals died in the tragedy.

Guyana's Prime Minister Mark Phillips attended an inter-agency meeting convened as part of the After-Action Review of the response to the MV Barima incident at the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) headquarters on Thomas Road Tuesday.

According to a statement on his Facebook page, the meeting facilitated an inter-agency review of the coordinated response to the MV Barima incident and measures to strengthen national emergency preparedness.

It brought together the principal agencies involved in the coordinated response including the Guyana Defence Force, including the Coast Guard and Air Corps, the Guyana Police Force, the



Civil Defence Commission, the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, the Maritime Administration Department, regional authorities and other government agencies.

On Monday, a magistrate adjourned to September 7, the court case in which three people, including the captain of the ill-fated MV Barima, have been charged with murder after the 87-year-old vessel sank.

Kevin Price, alias 'KP', the 40-year-old captain of the vessel, his 42 year-old chief mate, Rondell Dwayne Roberts and Delon Granderson, a 33-year-old goods superintendent appeared by Zoom before Magistrate Ravindra Mohabir at the Charity Magistrate's Court.

Defence lawyers and other legal commentators as well as the opposition have criticised the decision to file the murder charges against the three men, contending that the search is still continuing and that the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the government to examine the circumstances that led to the worst maritime disaster in Guyana's history has not started its work.

But the police have main-

tained that the murder charges were instituted following legal advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Director of Public Prosecutions Shalimar Hack said she advised that the trio be charged based on the evidence presented, the relevant principles of law involved, case law authorities from the United Kingdom, Commonwealth jurisdictions, the European Court of Human Rights, and public policy considerations.

On Tuesday, the Joint Opposition parties staged a loud protest in Linden as Vice President, Bharrat Jagdeo, was hosting a Government outreach, demanding a full and thorough investigation into the tragedy and the resignations of the two government ministers.

The Opposition parties said the Government is bent on operating as if its business as usual in Guyana, when more than 100 people lost their lives in the ferry tragedy.

Leader of the PNC/R and APNU, Aubrey Norton, was also on the picket line. He said the protest action was inevitable, as citizens are becoming increasingly agitated by the actions of the Govern-

ment.

"I believe that the Government is not responsive to people's concerns and as a consequence it is riling the people up. You have a situation where the government is totally responsible for what happened but they are going on as if there were three people on the boat.

"The reality is, that boat was condemned a while, the government brought it back, they forced people to work on it and we have and we have this tragedy and the focus has to be that we have accountability," Norton said.

The protesters were also demanding the Regional Executive Officer (REO) call a meeting of the Regional Democratic Council so that the elected councilors can elect a regional chairman and vice chairman for Region 10.

There has been no meeting of the council since last October when the first attempt at electing the regional officials ended in a tie. The REO has called no other meeting of the council since then.

Opposition Leader Azruddin Mohammed, who was among those at the protest scene, said the government is taking the people of the country for granted.

"The people of Region 10 voted overwhelmingly for WIN and I must represent them, that's why I am here to ensure this dictatorship government reconvenes the meeting and instruct their REO so that we can elect our regional chairman. We will not sit back and allow the Government to ride us, they will be met with protest wherever they go," he said. (CMC)

Reparations movement at defining moment, says Ghanaian leader

Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama on Monday declared that the global reparations movement has reached “a defining moment”, arguing that the international community must move beyond acknowledging the atrocities of slavery and colonialism to taking meaningful steps to address their lasting consequences.

Addressing a Special High-Level Reparations Dialogue at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Regional Headquarters on Tuesday, Mahama said Africa and the Caribbean, bound by a shared history of enslavement and colonial exploitation, must work together to advance the cause of reparatory justice.

The dialogue, hosted by The UWI in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister, also featured UWI Vice Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles, historian and chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission.

“As members of an historical family, the bonds between Africa and the Caribbean are profound and enduring. They were forged through one of the darkest chapters of human history. Yet they have been sustained through extraordinary resilience, cultural creativity, and a common struggle for dignity, justice, freedom, and self-determination,” Mahama said.

He described the transatlantic trafficking and enslavement of Africans as a deliberate system of exploitation that destroyed communities, separated families, disrupted cultures, and fuelled imperial wealth.

“These acts were not accidental. They were an organised system of extraction and racial domination sustained over centuries by political, legal, financial, and commercial structures,” he said.

Mahama argued that the consequences of slavery continued beyond emancipation, influencing present-day inequalities in wealth, development, opportunity, and political representation.

“The global discussions on reparations have reached a defining moment. The international community is moving beyond simple acknowledgement of historical wrongs toward structured en-



agement on how their enduring consequences can be addressed,” he said.

“The central question before us is no longer whether historical injustice occurred. The question now is how those injustices and their continuing effects should be addressed in a meaningful, sustainable, and forward-looking manner.

He said reparations should not be viewed solely as a moral argument but as a practical process aimed at healing and correcting systemic injustice.

Beckles, meanwhile, argued that the scale of human loss suffered during slavery in Jamaica amounted to genocide against Africans, citing demographic evidence that he said supported the case for reparatory justice.

“If you take Jamaica, the British brought 1.5 million Africans into Jamaica. At emancipation, there were only 300,000 remaining. So Jamaica had only about 17 per cent of all the Africans who came here surviving,” he said.

“The question is: how do you reduce 1.5 million people to 300,000 after 200 years?”

Beckles said the figures formed part of the case presented by the CARICOM Reparations Commission to the British government.

“So in Jamaica, slavery was genocide. It was genocide against the African people, and that’s the point we have made to the British government. You didn’t just enslave Africans in Jamaica. You committed genocide here,” he said.

The historian argued that the case for

reparatory justice extended beyond slavery itself, pointing to “the slavery, the genocide, the racism, the economic exploitation” that shaped the region’s history.

On the international response, Beckles said he was closely watching how the British government would address the issue as global attention on reparations increases.

He noted that several European countries had begun confronting their historical involvement in slavery and colonialism through apologies and discussions on making amends.

“The Dutch government has apologised and said they are ready to discuss reparations. The Germans have been trying to make amends. The French president has made a few statements, but it is hard to take those statements seriously until he addresses Haiti,” Beckles said.

“Haiti is the domestic issue, and the home drums begin there. What is required is very skilful political leadership.”

The dialogue examined the growing international movement for reparatory justice, the historical links between Africa and the Caribbean, and the role of governments, universities, and civil society in advancing the reparations agenda.

It comes amid renewed momentum on the issue, with Ghana and CARICOM intensifying diplomatic efforts to secure wider international support for reparatory justice. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Disney signs deal to let TikTok users add film extracts

The Walt Disney Co. said Wednesday that it had signed a deal with TikTok allowing users of the hugely popular video platform to add extracts of Disney films and characters, in what it billed a “first-of-its-kind agreement”.

“The agreement will bring creators to the forefront of Disney+, with a curated feed of fan-created content featuring our characters and stories,” the entertainment giant said.

Details of the content sharing accord were not disclosed in Disney’s quarterly earnings statement, which showed a seven per cent rise in quarterly revenue to \$25.2 billion.

But the move is part of its strategy of “Using advanced technologies to power our storytelling and increase monetisation and returns”, the company said.

It has already introduced vertical video feeds for previews of its Pixar, Marvel and “Star Wars” productions on its Disney+ streaming service, similar to TikTok’s scrolling format.

Net profit in its financial quarter to June 27 fell to \$2.8 billion from \$5.9



billion a year earlier, reflecting in part a higher tax bill in the period, but the

results were above most analyst forecasts. (AFP)

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Hundreds flee homes after Guatemala's Fuego volcano erupts

Hundreds of people living on the slopes of Guatemala's Fuego volcano evacuated their homes Tuesday after a huge eruption spewed lava and plumes of ash.

Emergency services issued a red alert, the most severe warning, after Central America's most active volcano erupted Monday morning, with conditions intensifying by nightfall.

Rivers of lava streamed down the 3,763-meter (12,346-foot) volcano located less than 100 kilometers from Guatemala City, while ash rose some six kilometers into the red sky.

"Since early morning it was active. That night, the alarm was raised that we needed to evacuate," local resident Alejandro Garcia, 68, told AFP.

Villagers left of their own accord out of fear, Garcia said, describing terrifying scenes of lava oozing down the mountainside.

Firefighters said they transported at least 500 residents of the El Porvenir and Las Lajitas villages to the eastward San Juan Alotenango municipality.

Evacuees are staying in a community hall where makeshift beds have been set up, while the number of people

taken to other nearby towns remains unknown.

"If there were any chance of moving to a different house, it would be better, because you're always afraid since the volcano doesn't give any warning," Lidia Ortiz, 40, told AFP at the shelter.

Escuintla to the south was sheltering dozens more families, including children, local authorities reported.

The red alert applies to the Sacatepequez, Chimaltenango and Escuintla areas, with a population of 1.6 million.

Emergency services director Claudine Ogaldes called on at-risk families to come to shelters voluntarily.

"In those spaces, you will find care, support and safe conditions while the volcanic activity continues," she wrote on X.

The country's Institute of Volcanology warned of hot volcanic debris flows down Fuego's slopes, with communities on the western and southern flanks at the greatest risk.

Fuego had been erupting for 23 hours straight by Tuesday morning, it said, although the intensity was easing slightly.

"We've already gotten used to having

the volcano constantly active, but this time it was really too much," 50-year-old resident Sonia Vasquez told AFP.

There has so far been no impact on the capital's international airport.

The education ministry suspended face-to-face classes in communities within two municipalities near the volcano.

Police closed and later reopened a nearby road leading to the colonial city of Antigua, a tourist destination and UNESCO World Heritage site.

Guatemala lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

There have been several such mass evacuations in recent years because Fuego erupted.

Authorities evacuated more than 500 people last year after Fuego spurted out gas and ash, with residents moved to shelters from communities near the crater.

Another eruption in 2023 pushed around 1,200 people to evacuate.

In 2018, 215 people were killed and a similar number left missing when rivers of lava poured down Fuego's slopes and destroyed a village. (AFP)



Australian airline Jetstar will charge passengers to use the overhead lockers for their bags



For passengers on the budget Australian airline Jetstar, the days of cramming your bag into an overhead locker already full of your seatmates' full-sized suitcases are coming to an end, but there's a catch.

The carrier will charge passengers for stowing carry-on bags in the overhead compartments, beginning in February 2027.

The move came after passengers and airline staff named "having bags weighed at the gate and struggling to find room in overhead lockers as the more stressful parts of the airport experience," the carrier said in a statement on Wednesday. It makes Jetstar the latest low-cost carrier to introduce a payment system for carry-on bags, with budget airlines in the United States and Europe commonly charging passengers to use the compartments.

Passengers could stow a purse, laptop bag or small backpack that fitted within specified measurements under

the seat in front of them for no charge, Jetstar said. The cost of using the overhead compartments in the cabin would start from 25 Australian dollars (\$18) one way, with the price depending on the route.

Bags stowed in the lockers can weigh up to 10 kilograms (22 pounds) and will no longer be weighed by airline staff as passengers line up to board, Jetstar said. The existing weight limit of 7 kilograms (15 pounds) will be scrapped for the small item placed under travelers' seats.

Like many carriers worldwide, Australian and New Zealand airlines have already introduced charges for checked luggage, seat selection, and some dining and in-flight entertainment options. An industry analyst said, however, that Jetstar was the first to charge for use of the overhead lockers.

"It will ruffle feathers because Australian travelers have got such high expectations," said Sharon Petersen,

CEO of AirlineRatings.com. "For such a long time they lived in a bubble of full-service options only."

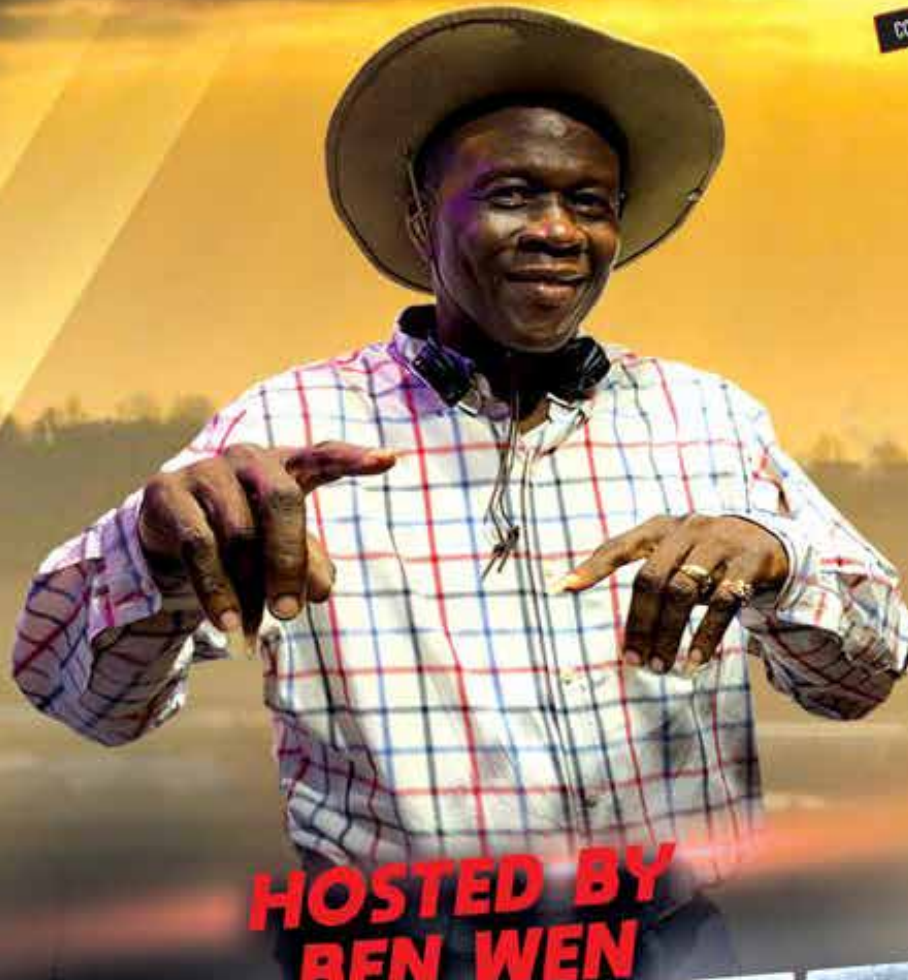
Jetstar said the change would reduce frustrations at boarding gates.

"By giving customers an underseat bag with the option to add Priority Carry-on, we can make better use of overhead locker space, streamline boarding and help more flights depart on time," Jetstar CEO Stephanie Tully said in a statement.

She added that the move would ensure customers only paid for what they needed. Petersen, however, said Jetstar's base fares remained higher than those of low-budget carriers in Europe that had brought in similar policies.

"Jetstar's starting price is generally well above what Ryanair or Wizz Air can offer, largely because Australia lacks that level of competition and because wages, taxes and operating costs sit much higher here," she said. (AP)

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Pakistan beat Windies to end overseas Test losing streak

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Pakistan ended their eight-match losing streak away from home in Test matches with a resounding eight-wicket victory over the West Indies in the second and final cricket Test on at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Wednesday.

First innings century-maker Abdullah Shafique and Babar Azam, in his first series since being reappointed as captain, led Pakistan to their target of 77 for two with unbeaten knocks of 24 runs each as the visitors achieved victory shortly after lunch on Day 4 and drew the series 1-1.

Babar knocked off the target by hitting back-to-back sixes against left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican, whose six-wicket haul in the first innings had limited Pakistan's lead to 43 runs.

"You are always satisfied with the win," Babar said. "The most important thing was that we executed our plans whether it was how Abdullah Shafique batting or how the spinners bowled in the second innings."

Babar's decision to leave out his in-form fast bowler Mohammad Abbas in favor of extra spinner was vindicated as West Indies' batting crumbled against Pakistan's slow bowlers in the second innings.

"When we saw the pitch it looked more similar to how they are in Pakistan," Babar said.

"We decided to play an additional spinner and it had an impact on our combinations because of which we had to leave out our senior players."

The West Indies won the first Test by 90 runs at Tarouba in Trinidad before Pakistan spinners Sajid Khan and Ali Usman utilized favourable conditions on a wearing wicket of Queen's Park Oval to ensure Pakistan stays unbeaten in a Test series against the West Indies since 2000.

Pakistan lost the wickets of Imam-



Pakistan's skipper Babar Azam, left, and West Indies captain Roston Chase pose with the trophy at the end of the second Test on the fourth day at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Wednesday, August 5, 2026. (Getty Images)

ul-Haq, brilliantly snapped up by Justin Greaves in the slips cordon for 9 in Jayden Seales' first over, and Azam was bowled by Shamar Joseph for 18 before Shafique and Babar sealed the win inside four days.

Earlier, the West Indies had set up a modest target of 75 runs after the men from the Caribbean got bowled out in their second innings for 117 inside half an hour, with off-break bowler Sajid (four for 32) and left-arm spinner Usman (four for 39) sharing eight wickets between them.

Opening batter Brandon King couldn't bat in West Indies second innings due to a back injury sustained on Day 3 when he ran out Babar with spectacular direct throw from short cover.

Resuming on 106 for six with only 60 runs ahead, the resistance of West Indies' tailenders ended quickly with Usman picking up the wickets of Kemar Roach and Joseph.

Greaves, the last recognized batter, played on to seamer Mohammad Ali's delivery back onto his stumps after adding just two runs to his total as he attempted a cross batted shot, but got a

big inside edge.

"It is obviously disappointing," West Indies captain Roston Chase said. "We wanted to win this series 2-0. We could have probably gone in with an extra spinner."

"We have played really good cricket in the last two series and we are improving and going into the direction that I want us to go, but we are disappointed with the result," Chase added.

"We wanted to win these series and make our home a fortress, but it is what it is. We have to learn and further improve."

Pakistan's last Test win away from home came against Sri Lanka in 2023 during Babar's first tenure as captain before Shan Masood led the side for nearly three years during which Pakistan lost 3-0 in Australia; 2-0 in South Africa; 2-0 in Bangladesh.

Masood was eventually relieved from the captaincy after Pakistan's dismal run in red-ball cricket, but the return of Babar as skipper saw Pakistan losing the first test at Tarouba for Pakistan's eighth loss away from home in three years.

Fourth annual Parham Super League kicks off this weekend

The fourth annual Parham Super League (PSL) football competition, which is organized by Eastboys Promotions in partnership with Parham Football Club, will commence on Saturday.

The 2026 edition of the PSL will involve 10 teams, two more than last year. The 10 teams will compete in two zones in this year's competition, which will take place at the Parham football field.

Among them will be defending champions Garden Stars, who dethroned back-to-back winners Pigotts Sports Club (Bullets), to win last year's Parham Super League.

Pigotts Sports Club will go in pursuit of their third title after winning the inaugural competition in 2023 and making a successful defense of their crown in 2024.

Garden Stars and Pigotts Sports Club will be among the participating teams in this year's competition that will offer a grand prize of EC\$3,000, with the

\$1,000 going to the runners-up.

Garden Stars will be one of the five teams that will compete in Group 1. The other teams are 2024 losing finalist Freemans Village, East Furlong FC, Swetes FC, and the newcomers Blackburn Palace FC.

Contesting Group 2 will be Pigotts Sports Club, Potters Tigers, and Parham FC, along with newcomers Glanvilles FC and Point West Ham FC.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals after the preliminary rounds. Thereafter, the winners of the semi-finals will advance to the final to determine the champion.

The registration fee is EC\$600 per team, which can register any number of players without additional cost.

The competition will commence with a double-header at the Parham football field on Saturday.

Garden Stars FC will take on East Furlong FC in the opening encounter at 5:30 pm, and the Pigotts Bullets will

launch their campaign against Parham FC in the second match of the tournament at 7 pm.

In Sunday's double-header, Freemans Village will face Blackburn Palace FC at 5:30 pm, and the Potters Tigers FC will clash with Point West Ham FC at 7 pm.

The matches in this year's competition will be played on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays for a period of four weeks.

The league was created to produce a preseason football experience that will equip teams for the upcoming Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's domestic season.

It also gives teams an opportunity to discover prospective talents that will add value.

This year's league is being supported with the assistance of 4K Sports Accessories, Land Tech Survey Services, and J4 Heavy Duty Equipment Services.



The Garden Stars accept their prize after winning their first title as champions of the third annual Parham Super League at the Parham playing field on Sunday, August 31, 2025.

Sports News

CPL to offer free health testing for fans across host venues



Cricket fans at a Caribbean Premier League match at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua. (Photo courtesy of CPLT20)

The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will partner with regional health authorities and non-governmental organisations to provide free health testing for fans at all eight of its host venues this season, as part of the tournament's ongoing support for the fight against non-communicable diseases.

The programme will see CPL use its reach to signpost fans toward appropriate health services, with organisers planning for the initiative to become a permanent fixture of the tournament calendar.

The initiative will run across Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, with health professionals stationed at CPL venues throughout the tournament, offering fans the opportunity to check in on their wellbeing while they take in the

cricket.

Services will include vital signs screening covering blood pressure, blood glucose testing, Body Mass Index (BMI) assessment, urinalysis, and PSA testing.

Non-communicable diseases, including hypertension, diabetes, and certain cancers, remain a significant public health concern across the Caribbean.

By bringing testing directly into stadiums, CPL and its health partners aim to reach fans who might not otherwise access screening, using the reach of the region's premier T20 league to support early detection and awareness.

The programme reflects CPL's broader commitment to the communities that host the tournament each year, extending the CPL family's engagement beyond the boundary to matters of everyday wellbeing.

Pete Russell, CEO, said, "Non-communicable diseases have touched almost every one of us in some way, whether as patients ourselves or through a loved one. Being a good corporate citizen means using the platform we've built for something bigger than the game itself.

"Early detection is key to combating non-communicable diseases – this programme puts that principle into practice. CPL reaches fans across eight territories every season, and we believe that reach carries a responsibility to give back. Bringing health screening into our stadiums is a simple, practical way to put that responsibility into action."

As Republic Bank CPL continues to grow and expand its footprint across the region, the league remains focused on using its platform to support health and wellness initiatives that benefit fans and host communities alike.

European soccer leagues add to pressure on FIFA president Infantino

The association of European soccer leagues called for governance reform of FIFA on Wednesday, adding to the mounting pressure on president Gianni Infantino following his failed plan to sell stakes in the World Cup.

On the day that Infantino reportedly held a meeting with senior staff in Rabat, Morocco, European Leagues, which includes top competitions like the Premier League, La Liga and Serie A, described the proposal as “dangerous” and said it pointed to deeper concerns about how world soccer’s governing body operates.

It said it raised “serious questions about FIFA’s governance, internal culture and decision-making.

“Now more than ever, FIFA requires governance reform that ensures that all relevant stakeholders have a formal role in decisions that shape the future of our game.”

In the statement, European Leagues hit out at the possibility of further ex-

panding the World Cup to 64 teams and said “FIFA must not be allowed to continue taking unilaterally disruptive decisions.”

It said that until there was reform it would reject the “expansion or creation” of FIFA competitions.

Portugal and Real Madrid great Luis Figo also called for Infantino to step down, saying he had “debased the office.”

The latest condemnations come after a tumultuous week, which has raised questions about his presidency of FIFA ahead of elections in March.

European soccer’s governing body UEFA has applied the most intense pressure by voting to boycott the World Cup if Infantino pressed ahead with the controversial plans to sell profits in its top competition through a commercial subsidiary called FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) that would run tournaments.

Even after Infantino’s climbdown UEFA said it had lost confidence in FIFA’s leadership — possibly paving the way for a challenge to his presidency. The governing body for North and Central American and Caribbean soccer (CONCACAF) also said FIFA leadership had “stopped putting football first.”

On Tuesday top FIFA officials Arsène Wenger and secretary-general Mattias Grafström distanced themselves from the FFE plans, which emphasized divisions within the organization that were evident when Infantino’s senior adviser Carlos Cordeiro resigned last week and chief operating officer Kevin Lamour said staff were “deceived” by the president’s lack of openness.

Wednesday’s summit in Rabat was dubbed a “crisis meeting” in media reports amid growing expectation that Infantino will be challenged in next year’s election when he was aiming for to win a fourth and final term in office.



Gianni Infantino

Antigua to host CWI Rising Stars Women's U-19 Tournament



This year's Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship will take place in Antigua from August 7 to 16. The tournament was held in Trinidad last year.

The sixth edition of the tournament will once again feature the region's most promising young female cricketers, representing defending champions Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Windward Islands, runners up for the past two contests, the Leeward Islands, and 2024 champions Guyana.

The Leeward Islands 14-member squad will

be without last year's captain Jahzara Claxton, who has been elevated to the West Indies senior women's team.

But seven players from last year's team will be returning. They are batters Aaliyah Weekes, Sanjana Bhoojraj, Zara Skerritt, and CQuinya Dasent, along with all-rounders Ruchira Daly, Leanga Warner, and Innka Wilson.

The other seven players in this year's Leeward Islands squad are all newcomers. They are Lois George, Kerranique Skeete, Kiara Hanley, Jahkazia Smithen, Cliana Joseph, Orecia Lewis, and Kiandra Muss-

ington.

The six regional teams will play five round-robin T20 matches and a play-off round to determine final placings during the competition, which will be contested at three venues, the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG), Ball Beef in Liberta, and Bethesda.

The tournament will bowl off with the opening round of matches on Saturday, August 8. In a double header at Ball Beef in Liberta, the Leeward Islands will clash with the Windward Islands at 9 am, and Barbados will launch their title defense against Guyana at the same venue at 2

pm.

Last year's third-place finishers Trinidad and Tobago will meet Jamaica in the other opening-round affair in Bethesda at 10 am.

The regional under-19 women's tournament plays a pivotal role in CWI's long-term player development pathway and the organization's broader strategy to grow the female game across the region, while serving as a key talent identification platform for future West Indies international players.

As part of the tournament, a special Player Development Session will be held on Monday, August 10, designed to equip the young athletes with essential tools both on and off the field.

This interactive session will focus on key areas such as sports psychology, nutrition and physical wellness, personal branding and social media awareness, and children's rights and protection.