

Another CHOGM Related Exercise Planned For Monday

Story on page 2



Photos from the Carnival Tuesday Parade where members of the CHOGM media team promoted the upcoming event with the participation of Carnival revelers

Another CHOGM-Related Exercise Planned For Monday



The National Security Planning Committee for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), will conduct another national security undertaking dubbed “Exercise Resilience” next Monday.

In a statement, the security committee said the exercise is expected to start at 12 noon and will continue until approximately 8 p.m. It will be centered around the Sticky Wicket Restaurant and Conference Centre, Barnacle Point, and the Copper and Lumber Store Hotel in English Harbour.

“This forms part of the ongoing national preparations for the hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda this November. It is designed to assess and strengthen the

nation’s security readiness, emergency response capabilities, inter-agency coordination, and overall operational effectiveness in a live, controlled environment.

“During the exercise, participating agencies will simulate real-time security operations, including VIP and VVIP motorcade movements, venue security, screening procedures, emergency response scenarios, and coordinated operational protocols similar to those that will be implemented during official CHOGM events, including activities surrounding the CHOGM Business Forum at Sticky Wicket,” the statement said.

It noted that as part of the exercise, members of the public should expect temporary road closures, traffic diversions, and restricted access along several major roadways. There will also be restricted parking in and around the Sticky Wicket area, including sections near the old terminal of the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Motorists, airport users, residents, and business operators are strongly encouraged to plan ahead, travel early where possible, and allow additional time to reach their destinations in order to minimize delays.

The areas expected to be affected include:

- Roads leading to hotels and official venues in the eastern, western, northern, and southern sections of the island;

- Sir George Walter Highway;
- Sir Sydney Walling Highway;
- Old Parham Road;
- Friars Hill Road;
- Valley Road;
- Roads leading to and from the V.C. Bird International Airport; and
- The English Harbour and Dockyard area.

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

The public is urged to comply with all traffic diversions, road signs, and instructions issued by police officers and other authorized personnel. Residents are also encouraged to follow official media platforms for additional updates and advisories before and during the exercise.

The National Security Planning Committee and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda regret any inconvenience these temporary security measures may cause and sincerely thank the public for its continued patience, understanding, and cooperation as Antigua and Barbuda continues its preparations to successfully host CHOGM 2026.



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National CHOGM Task Force Expresses Delight With Carnival 26 Activations



Masqueraders were able to take part in two interactive activities organized by the CHOGM National Taskforce during Antigua Carnival, which took place from July 25 – August 4.

Members of the Media and Public Affairs committee used the Opening Parade of Carnival 2026 on July 25, and the Tuesday Parade on Carnival Tuesday as backdrops to mount promotions for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) slated for November

1 to 4.

During the Opening Parade, team members, along with the CHOGM Youth Correspondents, asked parade participants questions related to CHOGM as well as asked them to pose for photographs while holding cut-outs of the CHOGM 26 Logo.

Branding Lead for the Committee, Chaneil Imhoff described these events as ‘energetic’ as both participants and onlookers were willing participants in the activations and

agreed to pose for photos which were shared on social media including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

“These two Carnival events brought much awareness to the fact that Antigua and Barbuda will host CHOGM this year and they served as important steps in our efforts to build on the momentum now that the 100-day countdown started on July 24,” she explained.

Co-Lead of the Media and Public Affairs Committee, Sharifa George,

Local News



also expressed satisfaction with what the committee has been able to achieve during the Carnival festivities. “In addition to having the participants photographed with the logo cutouts, we were also able to participate in live interviews with both ABS Television and Point TV during Tuesday’s Parade. This provided coverage both locally and internationally,” she recalled.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Co-Lead for Media and Public Affairs, Everton Barnes who expressed appreciation to the operators of Antigua and Barbuda’s newest tourist attraction 268 Trolley Train who made the train available to the committee members to participate in the Tuesday Parade and which allowed them to conduct interviews and take photos with participants. “It was a new

attraction for most people and that created much interest among onlookers as many persons climbed aboard, asked questions and generally joined in the fun of participating in the Carnival Parade. We deeply appreciate generosity of Rawle and Gem Reynolds for assisting the committee to achieve its goals for Carnival Tuesday,” Barnes stated.



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The Antigua National Taxi Association Re-Elects “Driftwood” As President

The Antigua National Taxi Association (ANTA) has re-elected Gregory Shoy “Driftwood” Athill, affectionately known throughout the transportation industry as President of the Association following its Biennial General Election held on Wednesday, 5 August 2026.

Leading the Dedicated to Excellence team, Athill secured an overwhelming mandate from the membership, receiving strong support and defeating all other contenders. The decisive victory reflects the confidence members have placed in his leadership and the progress achieved during his first term.

Athill was first elected President in 2024 under the theme Restructure and Unity. During the past two years, his administration has transformed the Association through prudent financial management, transparency, and strategic planning. Under his leadership, ANTA has tripled its assets, strengthened its organizational structure, expanded member services, and enhanced its financial stability.

Recognizing the importance of tourism to Antigua and Barbuda, Athill also introduced continuous hospitality and customer service training programmes aimed at improving the experience of every visitor transported by ANTA members. His administration has actively engaged government ministries, hotels, tourism partners, and private-sector stakeholders to create greater opportunities for members while strengthening relationships that benefit the nation’s tourism industry.

In his acceptance address, Athill expressed sincere appreciation to his executive team for their dedication, commitment, and tireless efforts throughout the campaign and during the association’s first term of office.

He also thanked the members of ANTA for their overwhelming support and renewed confidence, describing



Gregory Shoy “Driftwood” Athill

the election result as “a victory for unity, professionalism, and the continued advancement of the Association”.

Athill further expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for its continued support of ANTA and its members. He paid special tribute to Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, for honoring his commitment to provide a parcel of land for the association through the Ministry of Agriculture, describing the achievement as a historic milestone in ANTA’s development.

He also thanked Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, together with the

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, for their continued partnership and unwavering support of the Association over the years.

Looking ahead, President Athill reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to building an even stronger association by improving member welfare, increasing training opportunities, strengthening stakeholder partnerships, enhancing professional standards, and ensuring that ANTA continues to play a leading role in supporting Antigua and Barbuda’s world-class tourism product.

Directorate of Gender Affairs to Host 'Man in the Mirror' Men's Forum

The Directorate of Gender Affairs (DoGA), will host the "Man in the Mirror Men's Forum" on Wednesday, August 12, as part of ongoing efforts to address critical social and wellness challenges affecting men and boys in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Directorate is a division of the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation.

The forum will be held at the Inland Revenue Department from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and forms part of the Directorate's Men's Critical Issues Series, under its Masculinity Portfolio, specifically tackling violence, mental wellness, stigma and other critical issues affecting men and boys

The initiative is designed to provide a constructive and non-judgmental environment in which men can engage in frank discussions about some of the challenges they face, while examining the wider social factors influencing masculinity, relationships, violence, mental wellness and help-seeking behaviours.

Community leaders, legal experts and counselling professionals are expected to participate in the four-hour session, examining the root causes of social vulnerabilities and providing practical tools to help men navigate difficult circumstances.

The forum will also explore ways of reducing the stigma often associated with men seeking counselling, mental health support and other forms of assistance.



The poster features a man looking into a mirror, with his reflection appearing to be a different person. The text on the poster includes:

DoGA | DIRECTORATE OF GENDER AFFAIRS | MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION

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Executive Director of the Directorate of Gender Affairs, Jamie Saunders, said the organisation remains committed to ensuring that the experiences and concerns of men and boys are included in the national conversation on gender equality.

"The Directorate of Gender Affairs continues to make a concerted effort to ensure that issues affecting men and boys in Antigua and Barbuda remain prominent within national discourse and within the organisation's programming," Saunders said.

"Gender equality requires taking a people-centred approach, which

includes men and boys and recognises their unique needs and challenges."

Rafiq Martin, Programme Officer for Men's and Mental Health, said the forum will encourage men to confront difficult issues that are too often left unspoken.

"Man in the Mirror invites men to sit with some of the most difficult conversations our society has long avoided: what drives violence, what our silence costs us, and what it truly means to hear and respect the word 'no'," Martin said.

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Antigua and Barbuda Students Excel in Prestigious Caribbean STEM Programme

Two outstanding young Antiguan, Ajenai Charles and Kha-Lique Harris, are proudly representing Antigua and Barbuda in the 2026 Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE), an internationally respected initiative that is shaping the next generation of scientists, engineers and innovators across the Caribbean.

SPISE, organized annually by the Caribbean Science Foundation, is a highly competitive five-week residential programme that brings together some of the region's brightest students who have demonstrated exceptional aptitude and enthusiasm for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The programme not only provides rigorous academic instruction but also develops leadership, communication, teamwork and critical thinking skills that prepare students for success at university and beyond.

A Highly Competitive Selection Process

Admission to SPISE is like applying to a top university. Applicants must complete a comprehensive application that includes academic records, CSEC examination results, school transcripts, recommendation letters and personal essays outlining their achievements, interests and future aspirations.

Following an extensive review of applications, shortlisted candidates are invited for interviews before final selections are made.

Charles and Harris successfully navigated this demanding process and were selected among the region's most promising young scholars to participate in the 2026 cohort.

A Rigorous Academic Experience University-Level STEM Curricu-



lum

Throughout the programme, students' complete university-level coursework in several disciplines, including:

- Physics
- Calculus
- Biochemistry
- Robotics
- Computer Programming
- Entrepreneurship

Rather than focusing solely on finding the correct answer, SPISE encourages students to analyse complex problems, think critically and apply scientific knowledge to real-world situations.

For Charles and Harris, this hands-on approach has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the programme.

Opening Doors to World-Class Universities



One of SPISE's greatest strengths is the access it provides to internationally renowned universities and STEM professionals.

Participants engage with professors, admissions officers and university representatives from prestigious institutions, including:

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Columbia University
- Princeton University
- University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)
- University of Waterloo
- McMaster University

The programme also offers workshops on leadership, teamwork, communication, time management, résumé building and university application preparation, giving students invaluable guidance as they prepare for their academic futures.

Liat Air Launches 'Liat Air Club', a New Rewards Programme, to Mark Second Year Anniversary

Liat Air is launching a new loyalty programme, Liat Air Club, as the airline celebrates its second anniversary.

A Liat Air statement said effective Thursday August 6, customers can join Liat Air Club free of charge by registering on the Liat Air website (<https://book.flyliatair.com/ibe/loyalty>) and immediately begin earning rewards on eligible travel. Members will earn one point for every dollar spent, with points redeemable for flights, excess baggage and an expanding range of rewards and exclusive member benefits.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, Liat Air is also giving back to its existing customers by allowing passengers who have travelled with the airline during the past three months to retroactively claim points for eligible flights after enrolling in the programme. Deadline for retroactive claims is September 30th, 2026.

"Today's (Thursday) launch is our way of saying thank you to the thousands of customers who have supported Liat Air throughout our journey," said Hafsah Abdulsalam, Chief Executive Officer of Liat Air. "Over the past two years, we have worked tirelessly to expand our network and improve the travel experience for our passengers. Liat Air Club is an investment in our customers, giving back to them by rewarding their loyalty while making travel even more accessible and rewarding."

The programme features four membership tiers, Blue, Bronze,



The graphic features a man in a brown hat and sunglasses sitting in a red lounge chair, looking at a laptop. The laptop screen displays a 'Payment Success!' message. Three Liat Air Club membership cards (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) are shown floating in the air. The background is a tropical beach scene with palm trees and a blue sky.

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Silver and Gold, allowing members to unlock additional benefits as they travel more frequently with Liat Air.

The introduction of Liat Air Club marks another milestone in the airline's continued evolution. Since commencing operations two years ago, Liat Air has expanded its regional network, strengthened connectivity across the Caribbean and remained focused on delivering

greater value and convenience to its customers. The airline extends its sincere appreciation to all customers who have chosen to fly with Liat Air over the past two years. Their trust, loyalty and continued support have been an important part of its journey, and the launch of Liat Air Club represents its commitment to recognising and rewarding its valued customers.

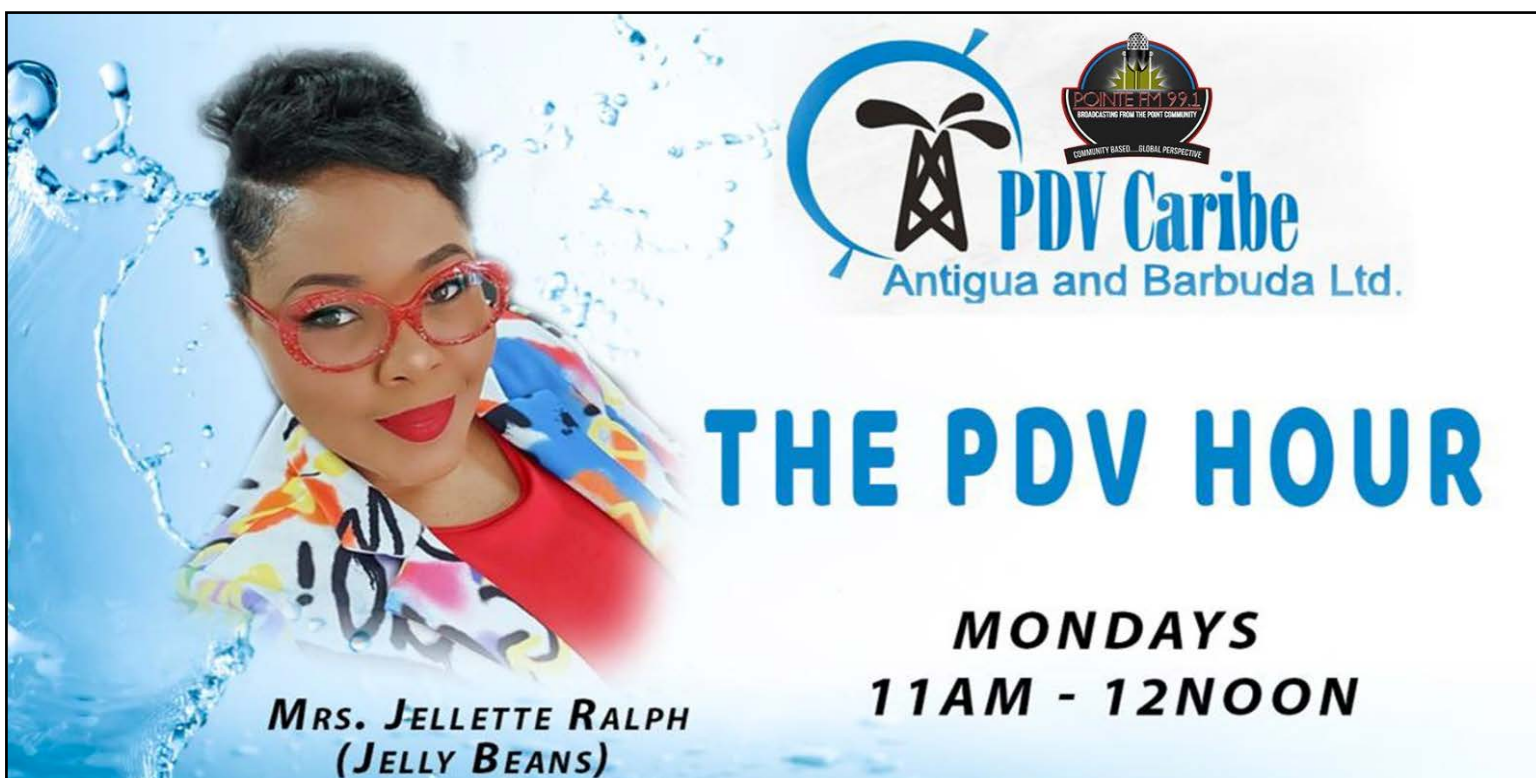
Halo Foundation Donates To Youth Leadership Camp

The Halo Foundation has reaffirmed its commitment to youth development by providing financial assistance to support a three-day Youth Leadership Camp which was hosted in collaboration with The Salvation Army.

The Foundation donated towards meals for approximately 30 young participants attending the recently held camp under the inspiring theme, "Lead Yourself. Lead Others."

The camp was designed to equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to become effective leaders within their communities. Through a carefully structured programme, participants explored topics including leadership development, emotional intelligence, conflict management, self-esteem, resilience, and purpose-building.

PRO of the Halo Foundation, Cuthbert Forbes, emphasized the importance of investing in the nation's youth, noting that empowering young people with strong values and practical leadership skills is essential to building stronger communities and a brighter future.

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Police Investigate Shooting Near West Bus Station; Two Men Injured

Police Investigate Shooting Near West Bus Station; Two Men Injured
 Police are investigating a shooting near the West Bus Station in St. John's that left two men injured on Thursday.

The incident occurred around mid-day, prompting a response from police and Emergency Medical Services personnel. Video footage captured in the immediate aftermath showed the two injured men being attended to by police officers and emergency medical technicians at the scene.

Two ambulances were dispatched, and both men were subsequently transported to hospital for medical treatment. The circumstances surrounding the shooting remain unclear, and authorities have not yet disclosed what may have led to the incident. The extent of the men's injuries is also unknown at this time. Police investigations into the shooting are continuing.





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Local News

Halcyon Steel Orchestra Says thanks to its Partners and Supporters for Carnival 2026



The 2026 carnival season is over. And like all others in its 55-year history, Halcyon Steel would have played its role in contributing to the overall success of this year's national festival.

While the Panorama results were not the most desirable outcome for the band, and one we BETED on, Pan in Antigua and by extension Carnival was the eventual winner. And so, we would like to congratulate all the bands that participated in the "Great Show Down" at Carnival City on the night of Saturday 1st August.

In Particular, we would like to congratulate the eventual winner and Pan-

orama Champs for an unprecedented 7th consecutive time, the CUB Hells Gate Steel Orchestra, the West Indies Oil Company Gemonites Steel Orchestra for capturing 2nd Place position, allowing Halcyon Steel to maintain its 3rd place position from a year ago.

Finally, as we bid farewell to carnival 2026, Halcyon Steel Orchestra would like to thank all of its Partners for their contribution to the band's successful participation in carnival 2026. In particular, we say thanks to the following:

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Flow launches 'We Live For This' campaign to celebrate Caribbean passion for cricket

Leading telecoms provider Flow has officially launched 'We Live For This', its Caribbean-wide campaign in support of the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), celebrating the passion, pride and shared experiences that make cricket one of the region's most cherished traditions.

The campaign builds on Flow's recently announced partnership with the Republic Bank CPL, bringing together two iconic Caribbean brands with a shared commitment to connecting communities, celebrating Caribbean culture, and delivering unforgettable experiences for millions of fans across the region.

We Live For This captures the spirit of the Caribbean game. It celebrates the moments that define the CPL from thrilling on-field performances and packed stadiums to the music, celebrations, community pride, and unwavering support that have made the tournament known as the Biggest Party in Sport.

With more than one billion cumulative viewers worldwide, the Republic Bank CPL has become one of the most-watched domestic T20 cricket leagues, showcasing Caribbean talent, culture, and entertainment on the global stage.

Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Caribbean, Inge Smidts, said the campaign reflects the deep connection between cricket and Caribbean identity.

"Cricket in the Caribbean is part of our identity, our culture, and our collective rhythm as a region. We Live For This celebrates the pas-

sion, pride, and sense of belonging that cricket inspires across our islands. Through our partnership with the Republic Bank CPL, we are bringing fans even closer to the moments that matter while continuing to invest in experiences that unite our communities," she said.

Throughout the tournament, Flow

customers and cricket fans will have opportunities to experience the excitement of the CPL through ticket giveaways, exclusive meet-and-greet experiences with players, fan zones, live viewing events, and digital activations designed to bring supporters closer to the action.



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Understanding China's Development Philosophy and Model Through the 2026 World Artificial Intelligence Conference

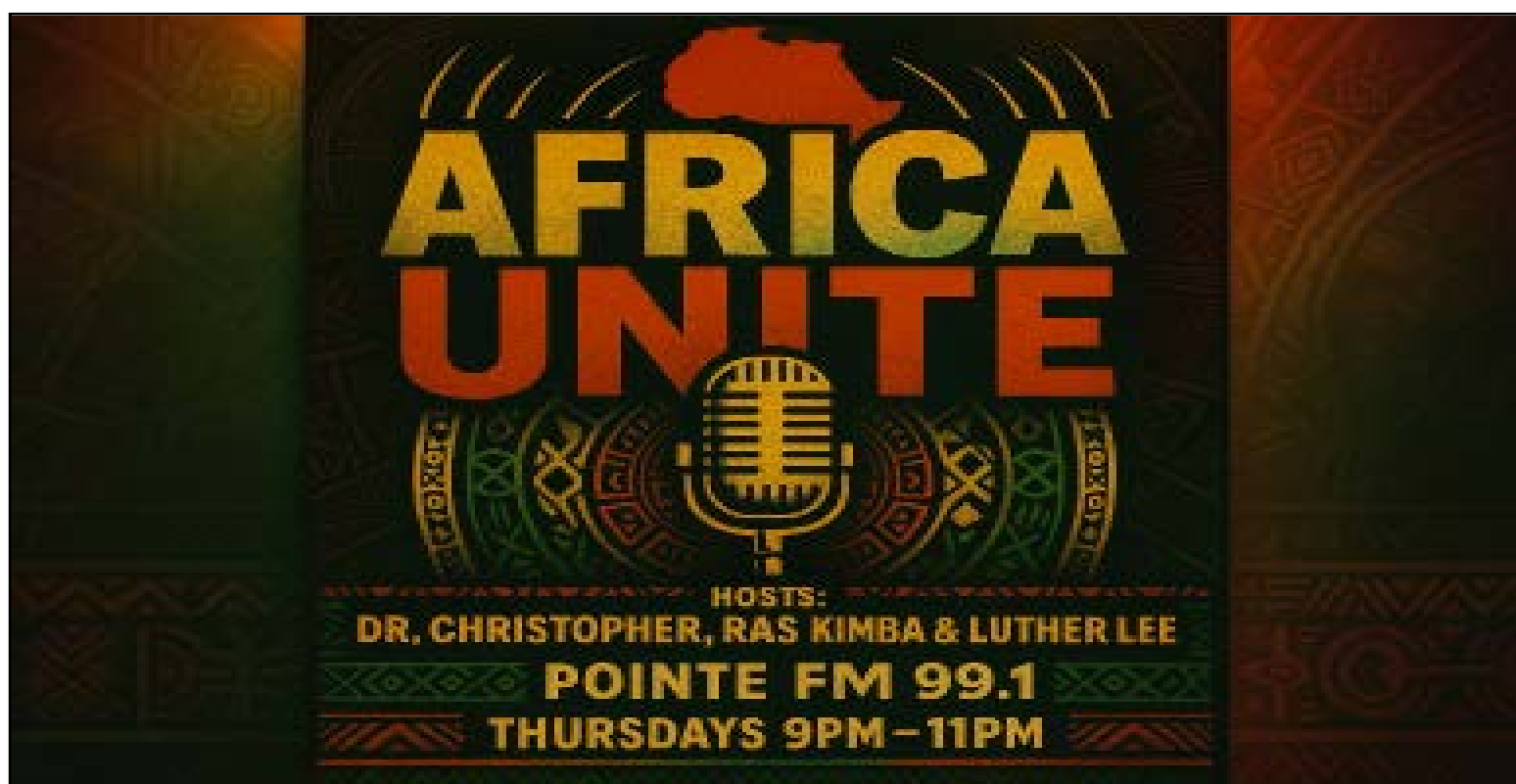


From July 17 to 20, 2026, the 2026 World Artificial Intelligence Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance was held in Shanghai, China. Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech,

systematically elaborating China's policy, position, visions and propositions on AI development and governance. With more than 1,100 enterprises showcasing their latest innovations, over 300 products making their global debut, and more than 4,400 exhibits on

display, this event offered visitors an impressive panorama of cutting-edge AI technologies. Under the theme "AI Partnership for a Brighter Future," it not only highlighted advanced technological breakthroughs but also fostered international consensus on AI governance, serving as an important window through which the international community can better understand the Communist Party of China (CPC) as the ruling party of China.

From the top-level design of AI development and forward-looking layout of productivity, we see the CPC's visionary and strategic resolve to "carry the blueprint through to the end". From the release of the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan in 2017, to the research in foundational algorithms and core technologies between 2021 and 2025, and now to the in-depth implementation of the "AI+" initiative under the 15th Five-Year Plan from 2026 to 2030 empowering various industries through digital and intelligent technologies, the CPC has



consistently kept pace with the times, positioning AI as a strategic driver of the new round of scientific and technological revolution. To fully implement the “AI+” initiative, China has planned a nationwide integrated computing power network, supported specialized and sophisticated “Little Giant” enterprises, approved the establishment of AI innovative application pilot zones, and facilitated AI-related academic programs and talent cultivation in universities. From the emergence of the open-source DeepSeek-R1 model surprising the globe at the beginning of 2025 to the daily token usage reaching the scale of quadrillions, China’s AI sector shows a lasting momentum in achieving new milestones.

From the widespread benefits brought by the application of AI across a wide range of industries, we better understand the CPC’s enduring commitment to the principle of “putting the people first”. Guided by “technology for social good,” the Party has been seeking to harness digital and intelligent technologies to safeguard people’s well-being, demonstrating its governing commitment that development is for the people, relies on the people, and its benefits must be shared by the people. Today, AI has been integrated deeply into key sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, and finance. Through initiatives such as citywide smart governance systems, cross-provincial smart government services, remote smart healthcare, and shared smart educational resources, AI has brought benefits to the public regardless of time and distance. As intelligent agricultural machinery, accessible voice assistants and other smart devices enter households across China, technological innovation is turning into tangible benefits to people’s life at a much faster pace. “Intelligent Manufacturing in China” has become another shining hallmark of Chinese modernization.

From advancing global governance and international cooperation on AI, we grasp the CPC’s ambitious vision of building a community with a shared

future for mankind. China consistently upholds the people-centered approach, emphasizing that the development of AI should be for the well-being of humanity. It opposes technological blockades and the “small yard, high fence” strategy, while striving for a better representation and stronger voice of developing countries in global AI governance. From putting forward Chinese proposals such as the Global AI Governance Initiative, the AI Capacity-Building Action Plan for Good and for All, and the AI+ International Cooperation Initiative, promoting the adoption of the resolution on “Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity-Building of Artificial Intelligence”, to establishing the Group of Friends for International Cooperation on AI Capacity-Building, hosting AI capacity-building workshops, and holding the World Artificial Intelligence Conference for nine consecutive years to build platforms for AI

development and governance, China is always committed to providing AI-related international public goods. Going forward, China will provide developing countries with 5,000 opportunities in AI training and seminar programs and develop international AI application cooperation centers.

AI is an invaluable asset that encapsulates humanity’s collective wisdom. The CPC maintains a global vision, and firmly binds the destiny of the Chinese people closely with that of people from all over the world. China is ready to carry out extensive international AI cooperation with all other countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, to enhance alignment and coordination on AI development strategies, governance rules, technical standards and other aspects, enable intelligent achievements to better benefit humanity, and work together to build a just and equitable system for global AI governance.



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Regional News

Agreement reached to expand early HIV diagnosis in the C'bean

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says it will collaborate with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) to expand early HIV diagnosis across Latin America and the Caribbean.

The initiative aims to improve access to testing, facilitate timely linkage to care, and help reduce preventable AIDS-related deaths.

Despite significant progress in the region's HIV response, late diagnosis remains one of the biggest obstacles to reducing new infections and AIDS-related mortality, and to advancing the elimination of HIV as a public-health problem. In 2025, about 34 per cent of new HIV diagnoses in Latin America and the Caribbean were made at an advanced stage of infection, while an estimated 32,000 people died from AIDS-related causes.

The new initiative forms part of wider efforts to accelerate progress towards eliminating HIV as a public-health threat in the Americas. The partnership will draw on the complementary expertise of both organisations to expand access to testing services, strengthen linkage to care, and promote the adoption of innovative strategies across the region.

"We continue to see far too many people in our region learning their HIV status only after the infection has progressed to an advanced stage, reducing opportunities to prevent serious complications and avoidable deaths," said Monica Alonso, chief of PAHO's HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and Malaria Unit.

"Expanding access to testing and ensuring that people are rapidly linked to care and treatment is essential to reducing AIDS-related deaths and saving more lives across the Americas," she added.

The collaboration was announced during PAHO's recent satellite ses-



sion, The Last Mile to Elimination: Reducing Mortality from Advanced HIV Disease, held at the International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2026) in Brazil.

The session brought together government representatives, community organisations, international agencies and strategic partners to discuss barriers that continue to impede timely access to HIV diagnosis and treatment.

Although the region has made substantial gains over recent decades,

thousands of people continue to receive a diagnosis only after the infection has reached an advanced stage. Late diagnosis remains a major contributor to HIV-related illness and death, despite the availability of effective tests and treatments that enable people living with HIV to lead long and healthy lives.

In 2025, around 2.1 million people living with HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean were receiving antiretroviral therapy, representing regional

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Regional News

PAGE 19

treatment coverage of 72 per cent. Yet an estimated 900,000 people were still not receiving treatment, while loss to follow-up remains a significant barrier to achieving regional HIV targets.

The collaboration between PAHO and AHF will support efforts to expand access to HIV testing, including self-testing and community-based service-delivery models. It will also seek to strengthen linkage to and retention in care, encourage the exchange of experiences among countries, and generate evidence to identify and scale up high-impact interventions.

“Closing the remaining gaps in the HIV response requires far more than having effective tools available. We must ensure they reach the people who need them, at the right time and in ways that reflect the realities of each country and community,” said Dr Adele Benzaken, AHF’s senior global medical director.

AHF is a non-profit organisation providing HIV-related services in 50 countries, including 11 across Latin America and the Caribbean.

“The collaboration between AHF and PAHO provides an opportunity to combine implementation experience, innovation, and technical cooperation with a regional perspective, helping accelerate our progress toward HIV elimination in the Americas,” she added.

Meanwhile, PAHO director Jarbas Barbosa told the opening session of the International AIDS Conference that the Americas have more tools than ever to prevent, diagnose and treat HIV, yet many are still not reaching everyone who needs them.

Barbosa said expanding access to innovations such as oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), long-acting injectable PrEP, rapid testing and HIV self-testing, together with strengthening early diagnosis and ensuring timely treatment initiation, would be essential to accelerate the elimination of HIV as a public-health problem in the region.

He said the Americas had repeatedly demonstrated that ambitious public-health goals could be achieved through cooperation, scientific evidence and strong health systems.

Barbosa noted that the region had eliminated polio and rubella, and that several countries had eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Those achievements, he said, provide a strong foundation for accelerating progress towards HIV elimination.

He also noted that countries in Latin America and the Caribbean now finance 92 per cent of HIV investment through domestic resources, one of the highest levels of domestic funding globally, demonstrating the region’s sustained commitment to the HIV response.

“The question before us is no longer whether we have the tools to end HIV as a public-health threat. We do. The question is whether we can ensure that

those tools reach everyone who needs them, regardless of where they live, who they are, or the circumstances they face,” said Barbosa, adding “innovation only changes lives when people can access it”.

According to the latest available data, AIDS-related deaths in Latin America and the Caribbean fell by 46 per cent between 2010 and 2025.

In 2024 alone, access to antiretroviral treatment prevented an estimated 117,000 AIDS-related deaths. Access to PrEP also increased sharply, rising from 35,000 people in 2020 to more than 326,000 in 2025.

Despite that progress, significant gaps in access and coverage remain. Roughly one in three new HIV diagnoses is still made at a late stage of infection, while nearly 900,000 people living with HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean are not receiving treatment. (CMC)



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PAHO warns digital marketing threatens breastfeeding



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is calling on countries in the Americas, including the Caribbean, to strengthen protections for families against the growing digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes and other products that may undermine breastfeeding.

In a message to observe World Breastfeeding Week, August 1 to 7, PAHO said that while breastfeeding remains one of the most effective interventions for protecting the health and development of infants and young children, the environment in which families make feeding decisions has changed dramatically.

It said personalised advertising on social media, influencers, algorithms and artificial intelligence are creating new challenges in ensuring that parents and caregivers receive objective, evidence-based information.

Breastfeeding provides optimal nutrition for infants, strengthens their immune systems, reduces the risk of illness and supports healthy growth and development. It also offers significant health benefits for mothers.

PAHO said that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, only 43 per cent of infants are exclusively breastfed during their first six months of life, well below the global target of 60 per cent by 2030.

According to PAHO, this gap is driven by multiple factors, including an increasingly sophisticated digital environment that can influence infant-feeding decisions. It warns that many of these marketing strategies operate largely out of public view.

Companies are increasingly using digital tools to target pregnant women, new mothers and other caregivers through social media promotions, influencer endorsements and advertising embedded across digital platforms.

“Breastfeeding is far more than an individual choice. It is one of the most effective ways to give children the best possible start in life,” said Vanessa Garcia Larsen, chief of PAHO’s Risk Factors Unit.

“In the digital age, protecting breastfeeding also means protecting families from commercial practices

that may influence their decisions.”

Data presented during a recent PAHO regional seminar show that only 45 per cent of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have adopted measures related to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

Only two countries, Brazil and Argentina, have achieved substantial alignment with the code, while several Caribbean countries still lack specific legislation. In addition, regional monitoring identified potential violations across social media platforms, websites and other digital channels, where most of the advertising reviewed was found.

“Marketing and promotion of commercial milk formula products have evolved, and the digital environment remains a regulatory gap that has yet to be adequately addressed,” said Mónica Mazariegos, a researcher at the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP). “Digital strategies allow companies to reach mothers, fathers, and caregivers frequently and with highly personalized advertising.”

Mazariegos noted that more than 80 per cent of advertising for these products occurs through digital channels. Studies conducted in Central America have found that exposure to such marketing is associated with a higher likelihood of purchasing and using these products, as well as an almost 50 per cent reduction in continued breastfeeding beyond 12 months.

The International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1981 to protect breastfeeding and ensure that infant-feeding decisions are not influenced by inappropriate

appropriate commercial practices.

More recently, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution expanding the scope of the code to better address digital marketing practices, including social media, content creators, influencers and other online platforms.

Experts participating in the seminar agreed that responding to these challenges will require updating legislation to cover digital marketing, strengthening monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, using new technologies to detect violations and enhancing regional cooperation to address advertising that easily crosses national borders.

They also highlighted the need to protect personal data and increase transparency around targeted advertising practices.

PAHO said it is also emphasising that protection from the marketing of breast-milk substitutes must be complemented by breastfeeding support services, family counselling and policies that enable women to breastfeed for the recommended duration.

It said these measures are among the most effective interventions to promote, protect and support breastfeeding.

“The goal is to ensure that families have access to objective, evidence-based information that is free from undue commercial influence,” Garcia Larsen said, adding, “achieving this requires updated regulatory frameworks, effective monitoring systems, and greater transparency in the digital environment.”

World Breastfeeding Week 2026 will be observed under the theme, ‘Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works’, and, as part of the week’s activities, PAHO will host a virtual seminar on August 7 to share experiences and strategies for strengthening breastfeeding policies and support programmes across the region. (CMC)

port programmes across the region. (CMC)



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Regional News

140 for national honours

Outgoing Bank of Jamaica Governor Richard Byles is among seven Jamaicans who have been appointed to the Order of Jamaica (OJ) and will join 139 other nationals journeying to King's House in October for recognition at the National Honours and Awards Ceremony.

Joining Byles in the OJ are philanthropist Donette Chin-Loy Chang; Cabinet minister Daryl Vaz; former parliamentarians Maxine Henry-Wilson and Derrick Smith; leader and philanthropist Diana Stewart; and private sector leader Christopher Zacca.

The Government has also named 25 recipients of membership in the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander (CD). Among them is Auditor General Pamela Monroe Ellis, whose work as the government's chief auditor has earned recognition locally and praise from colleagues in the profession overseas for her contribution to the field.

She is joined by endocrinologist Dr Evan Dale Abel; cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Roger Irvine; diplomat Ambassador Sharon Miller; banking executive Audrey Tugwell Henry; attorney Milton Samuda; and academic leader Professor Densil Williams.

Among others receiving membership in the CD are veteran broadcaster Donald Toppin, for contribution to broadcasting; Professor Densil Williams, principal of The University of the West Indies, for contribution to academia and international business policy and practice; and Director of Public Prosecutions Claudette Thompson, for contribution to Jamaica's legal system through the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution.

A further 41 individuals will receive membership in the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Officer for achievements spanning journalism, music, tourism, foreign relations, en-



gineering, broadcasting, and philanthropy.

Recipients include journalist and broadcaster Kerlyn Brown, tennis benefactor Karl Hale, reggae artiste Clifford 'Mr Vegas' Smith, musician Earl 'Chinna' Smith, meteorologist Evan Thompson, tourism stalwart Judith James-Watts, and Gary Williams, founder of the non-profit Children of Jamaica Outreach (COJO), who is being recognised for service to child protection.

Founded in 1994, COJO is committed to investing in the future of children, supporting childcare institutions, and, since 2012, providing scholarships for state wards pursuing higher education.

"I am deeply humbled and profoundly grateful to be recognised by my country with the Order of Distinction," Williams said.

"This award is not mine alone – it belongs to everyone who has walked this path with me, supported my work, and shared in a vision for the better-

ment of the children of Jamaica."

Meanwhile, four persons will receive the Badge of Honour for Gallantry for acts of exceptional courage.

They include Councillor Sean Barnswell and his wife, Danielle Anna-Marie Barnswell, for helping to save the life of a six-year-old girl who was abducted from her school in Clarendon on December 9 last year; Susan Annmarie Higgins, for assisting in the capture and handover to police of a man who raped and murdered an eight-year-old girl in Discovery Bay, St Ann; and Robert Anthony Johnson, for saving the lives of several persons trapped in a burning vehicle in Kingston on February 16, 2025.

The awards recognise achievements across virtually every sector of national life, ranging from medicine, education, and public administration to music, sports, religion, law, agriculture, and community service, highlighting the breadth of contributions being made by Jamaicans at home and abroad. (Jamaica Gleaner)

SVG government criticized over geothermal ignorance

Former government ministers Carlos James and Melissa Peters have launched a scathing critique of the current administration's handling of the energy sector, alleging a fundamental misunderstanding of utility ownership and technical ignorance regarding the nation's geothermal project.

During a broadcast of *On the Record*, Carlos James challenged the narrative surrounding rising electricity costs, reminding the public that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the sole, 100% shareholder of Vinlec. James argued that the responsibility for electricity policy and consumer relief lies directly with the cabinet and Prime Minister Dr. Godwin Friday, rather than the company's management.

"The buck stops with the state administration," James asserted, noting that the Vinlec board and CEO merely carry out instructions from the cabinet. He characterized the Prime Minister's

previous promises to cap fuel charges and provide subsidies as "misleading," stating that these measures never materialized because the administration failed to understand how to effectively trigger government-funded subsidies.

The most striking accusations involved the national geothermal project. James claimed that Prime Minister Friday and his cabinet lacked even a basic "working knowledge" of the project's technical requirements. He cited "reliable sources" alleging that technocrats and international consultants were left frustrated because the cabinet could not settle on a policy direction due to their inability to grasp the technical briefings.

According to James, the Prime Minister only began to understand the project after visiting a similar site in Martinique or Dominica. James described this as a delayed "lightbulb moment" that occurred long after technical experts had attempted to explain the re-

quirements to the government.

The former minister also addressed what he described as misinformation regarding the state of the geothermal wells. While the current administration suggested the wells needed to be capped, James clarified that the wells are already capped. He explained that the current "capping" allows for a controlled release of pressure when build-up occurs, a standard procedure.

James further detailed that the project now requires modernized extraction technology rather than traditional fracking. He alleged that the current cabinet was unaware that this technology was even available on the market.

"You cannot come to the parliament and make statements that are a misrepresentation of the technical reality," James stated, concluding that the administration's "nonchalant approach" and lack of institutional knowledge are now trickling down to affect national energy security. (St Vincent Times)



Possible Strait of Hormuz deal, a large attack in Yemen and other Mideast news



Iran says it's in the final stage of drafting an agreement on the Strait of Hormuz waterway with Oman, while two Israeli soldiers have been killed in Lebanon.

Here's a look at the latest developments in the Iran war and the wider Middle East on Thursday. Full coverage can be found here.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, has said an agreement on the Strait of Hormuz with Oman, which lies on the other side of the waterway, is in the "final stage" of drafting. Speaking Wednesday, he said a joint statement will be issued "if certain parties do not obstruct this process," apparently referring to the U.S.

The agreement is likely to be contingent on the U.S. lifting its blockade on Iran's ports.

A U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly said

Thursday that any temporary routes through the Strait of Hormuz will not have impediments such as approvals, permissions, tolls or charges.

The strait is crucial to global shipping and energy supplies. Before the war, which began with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran in February, around one fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas passed through the waterway at the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

On Thursday, all eyes were on the U.S. for the next development.

At least two ships were hit in the Strait of Hormuz in the past week, while several others reported near misses or warnings from entities claiming to represent Iran's Revolutionary Guard, according to maritime data company Lloyd's List Intelligence.

The company added that Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels continued to claim attacks on ships in the Red Sea. The claims could not be independently verified.

Vessel traffic through the Strait of Hormuz increased to 84 transits during the week of July 27 to Aug. 2, up from 45 the previous week. But traffic is still far below the more than 700 transits seen in a typical week before the crisis, Lloyd's List said.

Yemen's Houthi rebels attacked government forces in two provinces, killing at least 30 troops and wounding 50 others, government officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

The attacks mark a major escalation since a truce in 2022 largely halted fighting. The civil war pits the Iran-backed Houthis against a Saudi-led coalition allied with Yemen's internationally recognized government.

Yemen has been embroiled in a civil war since 2014, when the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen. The Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year. (AP)

Artificial Intelligence used to design brand new viruses

Artificial Intelligence has been used to design brand new viruses that are fully functional and can replicate in the laboratory, say US researchers.

It is the first time whole genomes have been successfully designed by AI.

The resulting 16 novel viruses were created to infect bacteria and pose no threat to people.

The breakthrough has been labelled a “very significant turning point” in science that could unlock a new era for treating disease. But experts have also warned AI-designed viruses raise “urgent” safety and security concerns.

AI tools are rapidly advancing and have already been used to design new antibiotics.

But that is relatively simple compared with designing a new viable virus from scratch.

“This is a next step in the complexity that’s designable by generative AI, this is the first time generative AI has been used to design a complete genome, it’s something that can replicate and have other functions inside cells... this was new territory for us,” Brian Hie, assistant professor at Stanford University, told the BBC.

The technology works similarly to large language models, like ChatGPT, which predict sequences of text.

In this instance the AI models, known as Evo1 and Evo2, predict the language of life rather than words.

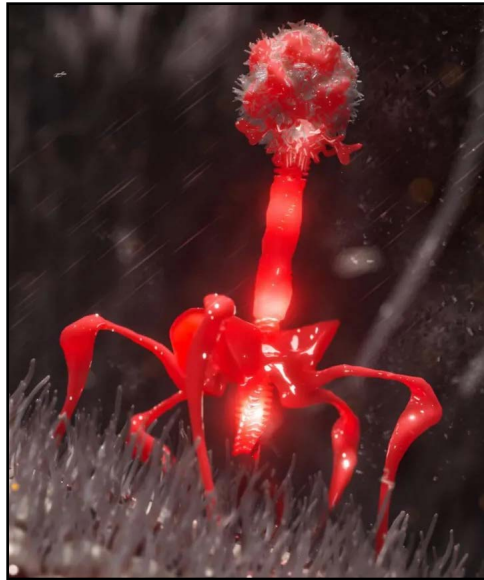
The AI models were trained on genetic codes from viruses, bacteria, plants and people.

They were then refined to produce a type of virus, known as a bacteriophage, which infect only specific species of bacteria.

Assistant professor Brian Hie, pictured on left with a colleague, said of his work “This was new territory for us”.

The Stanford researchers picked the most promising 302 AI designs and synthesised them in the lab. Of these, 16 proved effective at killing *E. coli* bacteria.

Samuel King, a PhD student in the lab, said they realised the phage were work-



ing in the early hours of the morning. The phage were placed on petri dishes growing a layer of bacteria on them and the scientists waited for signs their new viruses were enjoying the feast.

“We were starting to see these clear spots and it was just extremely exciting,” says King. When the results were shared with the wider team “the room spontaneously burst into applause”, Hie recalls.

Developing new phage could lead to new ways of treating infections that have become resistant to antibiotics.

Phage therapy is seen as a potential solution to the rising tide of bacterial infections that cannot be treated with antibiotics.

But the breakthrough also points to the ability of AI to design new biology that goes beyond the natural world – what is known as synthetic biology.

Hie argues this has the potential to “massively improve human health” by developing new drugs and therapies.

But concerns have already been raised that the same technology could be used maliciously to create new diseases.

In a commentary accompanying the publication in the journal *Science*, Dr Thomas Inglesby and Dr Moritz Hanke from the Center for Health Security at Johns Hopkins University wrote that the findings raise “urgent biosafety and

biosecurity questions”.

They said it was no longer a question of “whether generative viral genome design will exist” but whether it can be used without “enabling serious harm”. For example, they said new viruses with the potential to cause disease “should not be pursued”.

The researchers themselves took steps to maximise safety. They excluded viruses that could infect complex organisms from the training database, performed the research on phage rather than viruses that infect people and it all took place in a secure laboratory.

Hie argues even existing safeguards go a long way towards “ensuring that the technology is used for good”.

Viruses are not alive and it would take another significant leap for AI to generate living organisms.

The genetic code of the phage is around 5,400 base pairs (letters) long. The smallest genome of a living cell is around 500,000 base pairs. The human genome is three billion base pairs.

Hie says “it would probably be a lot of work, but not impossible” to attempt some simple organisms and they were “definitely interested in working towards” that.

Prof Marc Güell, from the synthetic biology lab at Pompeu Fabra University in Spain, said the study was a “very significant turning point” because for the “first time in history, we are beginning to design biology on a computer”.

He said it “allows us to dream of exciting possibilities for tackling humanity’s greatest challenges” such as developing phages to tackle disease, enzymes to treat genetic disorders and antibodies that could be used in immunotherapy.

Prof Patrick Cai, chair of synthetic genomics at the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, said the study was an “important milestone”.

“The significance extends far beyond phages – it suggests that genome language models are beginning to learn the design principles encoded by evolution, opening the door to AI-assisted genome writing.” (BBC)

South Korea space agency shares Moon images after SpaceX rocket debris crash

South Korea's space agency has released images that show the Moon after part of a SpaceX rocket crashed into its surface on Wednesday.

The Korean AeroSpace Administration (KASA) said lunar orbiter Danubri captured images after the impact, which it shared alongside photos of what the Moon's surface looked like before the crash.

Rocket debris struck the Moon at around 06:35 GMT on Wednesday, according to the South Korean space agency.

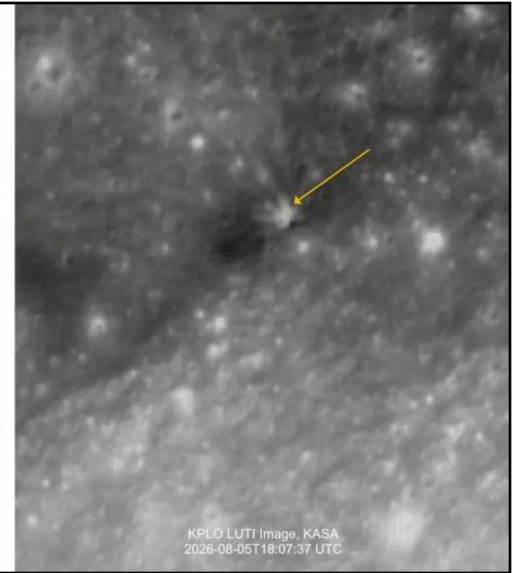
SpaceX has said the impact was not intentional.

Re-usable Falcon 9 rockets were designed to allow part of the rocket to return to Earth (the upper stage) and other sections to be shed in space. SpaceX has used this type of rocket on several missions.

The empty upper stage of this Falcon 9 rocket, which scientists predicted would hit the Moon at a speed of about 5,400mph (8,700km/h), is about the size of a five-storey building and weighs approximately 4,000kg (630st) on Earth.

The short, dramatic flash created when the rocket part hit the Moon would have been hard to catch by amateur astronomers even with high-end telescopes, but larger observatories - including Seoul's space agency - are analysing the information.

While the impact did not pose any



danger to Earth, Matt Bothwell, astronomer at the University of Cambridge, raised concerns about space debris.

"Space is getting more and more crowded," he said, as each year "we launch more stuff into space".

"It could feasibly be within a few decades that it's actually quite hard to get past Earth's orbit because space is so crowded," Bothwell warned.

The same booster section from the January 2025 mission is due to set off on its 18th flight on 10 August. SpaceX says the mission hopes to launch 29 Starlink satellites to low-Earth orbit.

The rocket that blasted from Florida last January was carrying two lunar landers into space.

Its job was to fire the upper stage hard

enough to send both of the landers out of Earth's orbit and onto a path towards the Moon.

The spent stage was left drifting in a long, looping orbit that swung out towards the Moon and back again.

Over the next 18 months, the gentle gravitational tug of the Earth, Moon and Sun, along with light from the Sun, gave it a faint push.

Astronomers tracking the rocket part eventually worked out that those small nudges had put it on a course towards the Moon, and it was picking up speed every day.

The impact on Wednesday happened in broad daylight for many parts of the world, but the tiny flash it produced would have been far too faint to see, even through a telescope. (BBC)



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Kellogg says it's removing artificial dyes from cereals by the end of this year

WK Kellogg said Thursday that it will remove artificial colors from all its cereals by the end of this year.

The change comes a year ahead of schedule. Kellogg said last August that it would remove synthetic dyes from its cereals by the end of 2027.

But the company said Thursday it has identified fruit- and vegetable-based juices that will give cereals like Froot Loops and Apple Jacks their distinctive colors. The Battle Creek, Michigan-based company said it has also invested in equipment that will allow it to transition to natural colors.

The company said it is also removing BHT, an artificial preservative, from the small number of cereals that still contain it.

"More and more consumers are looking for foods made with simple, recognizable ingredients and we are proud to meet those expectations even sooner than planned," Kellogg's Chief Growth Officer Doug VanDeVelde said in a statement.

Kellogg has faced pressure for years to remove artificial ingredients from its cereals, which it has already done in other countries like Canada. In



2024, dozens of people rallied outside Kellogg's headquarters and delivered petitions with 400,000 signatures asking the company to remove artificial dyes and BHT.

That pressure has grown under President Donald Trump's health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who has urged food companies to phase out petroleum-based artificial dyes. Last August, Kellogg also signed an agree-

ment with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton saying it would "permanently remove toxic dyes" from its cereals by the end of 2027.

Retailers are also forcing companies to act. Earlier this year, Target said it would stop selling cereals that contain artificial colors by the end of May. Walmart has also said it will remove artificial colors from its store brands by January 2027. (AP)

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Sports News

Teams confirmed for senior ECVA men's and women's tournaments



The Antigua and Barbuda team in celebration of their achievement of winning the inaugural 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's Men's Final Four Championship at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's, Antigua, on Sunday, September 21, 2025.

The teams have been confirmed for the 2026 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Senior Championships, which are set to take place in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) next week.

Antigua and Barbuda will be among eight teams, which will battle for supremacy in the men's championship in Tortola from August 12 to 16.

The eight teams are divided into two pools of four to battle in a round-robin preliminary stage. The top two finishers at the end of the group stage will advance to the semi-finals.

Antigua and Barbuda are current back-to-back champions of the ECVA's senior men's championship,

winning the titles in 2024 and 2025 on home soil in St. John's.

The Antiguanians will enter the men's tournament as the top seed and will compete in Pool A alongside St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Pool B will feature the host British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica, Bermuda, and Anguilla.

The Antiguanians will launch their campaign against St. Lucia on August 12. Antigua and Barbuda will face St. Vincent and the Grenadines on August 13 and will clash with Grenada on August 14.

Antigua and Barbuda are among seven teams that will compete for supremacy in with ECVA women's

tournament, which will be held simultaneously with the men's championship at the same venue.

The Antiguanians will contest Pool A with two other teams after St. Vincent and the Grenadines pulled out of the women's tournament. The Antiguanians will compete against teams from the British Virgin Islands and Grenada.

Contesting Pool B will be the senior national teams of St. Lucia, Bermuda, Anguilla, and Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda will open their campaign in the women's contest against Grenada on August 12. The Antiguanians will then take on the British Virgin Islands on August 13.

In June, the Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association (ABAVA) announced provisional men's and women's national training squads that started official preparations for the 2026 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Senior Championships.

The ABAVA is expected to shortly announce the two squads that have been selected to represent the twin-island state at the events in Road Town, Tortola, next week.

Infantino and FIFA present united front after crisis meeting

MOROCCO (AP) -- FIFA said it had apologized for errors made over Gianni Infantino's failed plan to sell stakes in the World Cup and that senior staff in attendance at a crisis meeting in Morocco "reaffirmed their full support" for his presidency.

World soccer's governing body attempted to present a unified front amid the turbulence caused by Infantino's controversial plans, with calls for him to step down.

In a statement, FIFA said Secretary-General Mattias Grafström and members of the management board in attendance in Rabat had given their support to the embattled president.

Referring to the plans to sell profits in the World Cup through a commercial subsidiary called FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), the statement said "mistakes made were acknowledged" and that the "process should have been handled differently."

FIFA said a letter had been sent to FIFA Council and member associations apologizing for errors and committed to "ensure they do not happen again."

Grafström's stated support was notable after he distanced himself from Infantino's now abandoned plans in an email to all FIFA staff calling the last week a "sad and reproachable series of events."

FIFA said Infantino had also reaffirmed his support for his secretary general. World soccer's governing body said the FFE proposal was "now off the table."

"There are always lessons to be



Gianni Infantino

learned, and FIFA will continue to improve its processes in light of this experience," it said.

Earlier Wednesday, the association of European soccer leagues — including the Premier League, La Liga and Serie A — called for governance reform of FIFA. It described the FFE proposal as "dangerous" and said it pointed to deeper concerns about how the 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 expanding 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."

FIFA denied a British media report suggesting Infantino, in seeking support for his presidency, had offered Morocco the hosting of the final at the 2030 World Cup.

Spain, Portugal, and Morocco are the main co-hosts for the 2030 edition. Morocco hopes to host the final at the planned 115,000-seat King Hassan II Stadium near Casablanca; Spain has at least two contenders — the home stadiums of Real Madrid and Barcelona.

A FIFA spokesperson said it's "false and misleading to claim the FIFA president has made any promise in relation to hosting the FIFA World Cup 2030 final. A decision will be made by FIFA in due course."

Infantino is aiming to win a fourth and final term in office at the March elections.

Salah agrees to 2-year contract with Trabzonspor



Egypt's Mohamed Salah wearing his new Trabzonspor team jersey gestures to supporters as he arrives at the airport in Istanbul, Turkey, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026. (AP)

Mohamed Salah agreed on a two-year contract with Trabzonspor on Thursday.

Egypt international Salah was a free agent after leaving Liverpool at the end of last season. He flew to Istanbul on Wednesday to complete his move to Trabzonspor and was greeted by throngs of fans on his arrival.

His official signing ceremony took

place later on Thursday. The 34-year-old Salah established himself as a Premier League great with Liverpool where he won two league titles and the Champions League among eight major honours.

He scored 257 goals in 442 appearances for the Merseyside club and is regarded as one of its greatest players of all time.

He still had a year to run on his contract at Liverpool, but in March he announced he would leave the club after a disappointing campaign, in which he scored only 12 goals and had a public falling out with then-coach Arne Slot.

Trabzonspor is a seven-time Turkish champion and finished third last season.



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Coco Gauff backs WTA gene-testing



United States' Coco Gauff eyes a return ball to compatriot Kayla Day during a National Bank Open tennis game in Toronto on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026. (AP)

TORONTO (AP) — Coco Gauff understands the reasoning behind the WTA Tour's newly introduced gene-testing policy. What the two-time Grand Slam champion doesn't favor is how politicized the discussion becomes in generating what Gauff called, "animosity towards the trans community."

To her, the topic requires a more nuanced conversation, which is why Gauff provided what she called a nuanced answer, in speaking to reporters at the Canadian Open in Toronto following her opening-match win over Kayla Day on Wednesday evening.

"So, yes, I guess I kind of agree with trying to protect the fairness in wom-

en's sports. But I also do not like the attack that it is creating," Gauff said.

"People who don't really care, but just want to use this as a reason to attack the trans community — so I'm not really a big fan of that either."

Her comments come in response to the Women's Tennis Association last month introducing one-off mandatory gene-testing for all players as a requirement to compete at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Players are being tested for the SRY gene, a segment of DNA typically found on the Y chromosome that initiates male sex development in utero and indicates the presence of testes.

It remained unclear how many, if any,

transgender women are competing at the Olympic level, let alone the WTA Tour.

The WTA said the policy distinguishes between biological sex and gender identity, and that there is "no intent to disrespect or question the gender identity or the dignity of any person."

The mandatory gender screening — already conducted by the governing bodies of track and field, skiing and boxing — has been criticized by human rights experts and activist groups.

Gauff questioned whether the introduction of the process could have been more transparent by noting some players only found out about the new policy when it was announced.

Tiger Tyson wins silver medal at CAC Games



Tiger Tyson

Antigua and Barbuda's kiteboarder Tiger Tyson won the nation's first medal at the 2026 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on Wednesday.

Tyson captured a silver medal after finishing second in the men's kiteboarding sailing competition at Salinas Beach. The Antiguan kiteboarder accumulated a total of 29 points in 14 races.

The gold medal was won by Deury Javier Corniel of the Dominican Republic with a total of 16 points. Alec Guerrero of Mexico clinched the bronze medal by finishing third with a total of 39 points.

Antiguan sailors O'zani Lafond and Shanoy Malone both failed to advance to the finals in their respective

men's singlehanded dinghy competitions.

O'zani Lafond was unable to book his place in the finals after finishing seventh overall among a field of 11 sailors in the preliminaries of the men's regional single-handed dinghy competition.

Lafond accumulated 58 net points across a series of 10 races in the preliminary stage.

Malone also failed to qualify for the finals of the men's single-handed dinghy contest after finishing eighth overall among a field of 18 participants.

Malone accumulated a total of 63 net points during a series of 10 preliminary-round races.

Antigua and Barbuda's duo of Me-

khi Simmons and Stuti Kashyap failed to progress from the opening round of competition in the mixed doubles in table tennis on Wednesday.

Simmons and Kashyap suffered a 3-1 loss to Edgardo Sanchez and Munoz Samirah of El Salvador in the Round of 32. The team from El Salvador prevailed 19-17, 13-11, 8-11, and 11-6.

Both Antiguan also bowed out of their respective singles competitions.

Simmons crashed out of the men's singles competition after suffering a 4-0 loss to Jorge Buenrostro of Mexico in the Round of 64. The Mexican won all four games by an 11-4 scoreline.

After gaining a bye into the second round, Kashyap was eliminated in the Round of 32. Kashyap suffered a 4-1 loss to Costa Rica's Lucia Zavaleta, who prevailed 12-10, 11-9, 5-11, 11-5, and 11-5.

Antiguan sprinter Geolyna Dowdye also failed to advance to the women's 200-meter final after being eliminated in the first of three semi-final heats.

Dowdye clocked 23.79 seconds to finish fourth in Heat 1 of the semi-finals, which was won by Liranyi Alonso of the Dominican Republic in 22.70 seconds.

Orangys Jimenez of Venezuela took second place in 22.92 seconds and advanced to the final. Saraiah Walkes of the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) finished third in 23.61 seconds, but her time was not sufficient to earn her a place in the finals.