

Government Steps Up Airport Safety and Security Investments

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Government Steps Up Airport Safety and Security Investments

Security apparatus will be added to the emergency response vehicles delivered earlier this week for V.C. Bird International Airport as the Government continues efforts to strengthen the safety and operational capabilities at the country's main port of entry.

During its weekly meeting on Wednesday, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda was briefed on the latest developments, including the handover of two specialised emergency vehicles to the airport and a new commitment from Allen & Co. to donate an XRC 60-40 X-ray screening machine.

Cabinet said the investment underscores the importance of ensuring that the country's main international gateway has reliable emergency-response resources capable of protecting passengers, employees and other airport users.

During the presentation, Allen & Co. emphasised that its relationship with Antigua and Barbuda goes beyond simply supplying equipment.

The company recalled an earlier situation in which the airport required additional rescue capability and said it responded by donating a Jaws of Life rescue tool to ensure emergency personnel had the necessary equipment available.

Allen & Co. stressed that effective partnership means responding when a need arises and ensuring that equipment provided is appropriate for the airport's specific operating environment.

Cabinet welcomed the approach, noting that the acquisition of specialised emergency equipment must be accompanied by proper training, maintenance, technical support and dependable access to replacement parts.

The Government said these considerations are particularly important in a small-island environment, where ship-





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ping, technical expertise, maintenance requirements and the long-term sustainability of specialised equipment must all be taken into account.

Cabinet welcomed Allen & Co.'s commitment to donate the XRC 60-40 X-ray screening machine, noting that the additional screening equipment is expected to support the airport's next phase of aviation-security modernisation by providing security personnel with another technological tool to strengthen existing screening operations.

Cabinet noted that emergency preparedness and aviation security are complementary elements of maintaining a safe and efficient international airport.

As technology develops and international safety and security requirements continue to evolve, the Government said Antigua and Barbuda must continue investing in the equipment, systems and human resources necessary

to meet those standards.

Allen & Co. also urged personnel who will operate the new emergency-response equipment to train extensively with them and become thoroughly familiar with its operation.

The company emphasised the importance of proper maintenance to ensure the equipment remain operational and ready for use when an emergency occurs.

Cabinet endorsed the emphasis on training and sustainability, noting that purchasing equipment is only one part of strengthening national emergency-response capability.

The Government stressed that properly trained personnel and equipment that remains serviceable and supported over the long term are equally important.

Allen & Co. was applauded for its continued support and partnership with Antigua and Barbuda, particular-

ly its latest commitment to provide the X-ray screening equipment.

The V.C. Bird International Airport Authority, airport firefighters, emergency medical personnel, security officers and other airport employees were also commended for their daily contributions to maintaining the safety, security and efficient operation of the facility.

The Government said it will continue to support investments aimed at strengthening emergency preparedness and aviation security at the airport, recognising the facility's critical importance to tourism, the national economy and Antigua and Barbuda's international connectivity.

Cabinet said there is much to be proud of in the continued development of V.C. Bird International Airport, while acknowledging that its safety and security capabilities must continue to evolve.

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Local News

Antigua and Barbuda to Welcome King and Queen During 2026 Autumn Tour



Antigua and Barbuda will welcome Their Majesties The King and Queen during a Royal Visit in October and November, coinciding with their attendance at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026.

The announcement was contained in a Royal Communication issued yesterday, confirming that Their Majesties will undertake an Autumn Tour from

Tuesday, 27th October to Wednesday, 4th November, 2026.

The Royal Visit to Antigua and Barbuda will form part of the wider tour, which will also include engagements in The Bahamas and Guyana.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla are scheduled to travel to Antigua and Barbuda as the country prepares to host CHOGM 2026, which will bring Commonwealth leaders together for

high-level discussions later this year.

The Royal Communication did not provide details of the dates, locations or specific engagements planned for Their Majesties during their time here.

It stated that further details of their programmes will be announced in due course.

Before travelling to Antigua and Barbuda for CHOGM, The King will undertake a Royal Visit to The Bahamas, where he also serves as Head of State.

His Majesty will then undertake a State Visit to Guyana, at the invitation of the President of Guyana and at the request of the UK Government. The Guyana visit will have particular significance as it will mark 60 years of bilateral relations between the United Kingdom and Guyana.

The Royal Communication said the wider Autumn Tour would celebrate “communities, cultures and Nature within the Commonwealth family.”

The tour will therefore combine constitutional, diplomatic and community engagements across the three Caribbean and South American countries.

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Cabinet Reviews Pay Rates for Heavy-Duty Equipment Operators



The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has begun a review of the rates of pay for heavy-duty equipment operators employed within the public service, with a special sub-committee established to determine whether their current remuneration adequately reflects the demands and responsibilities of the job.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Works, including the Junior Minister, Permanent Secretary, Director and Deputy Director, were invited to Cabinet this week to discuss the existing pay rates and the circumstances affecting the compensation of heavy-duty equipment operators.

During the discussion, Cabinet was presented with several factors relevant to the current rates of pay, including the demanding nature of the work, the specialised skills required, working conditions, levels of responsibility and prevailing wages within the wider labour market.

Cabinet agreed that the matter warranted further examination to

determine whether the existing remuneration remains appropriate.

A sub-committee has therefore been established to conduct a detailed assessment of the pay rates and make recommendations to Cabinet. It will comprise the Minister of Housing and Works Maria Browne and her Junior Minister Senator Shenella Govia, Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin, and the Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Rawdon Turner.

Among its responsibilities will be an assessment of current public-service rates against prevailing wages being paid by private-sector employers for comparable heavy-duty equipment operations.

The sub-committee will examine and review the different classifications and responsibilities associated with the positions, including the qualifications, experience, technical skills, working conditions and degree of responsibility required.

Cabinet has also directed that the relevant trade union be engaged as part of the process.

The Government said consultation with the recognised representative of the affected workers is important to ensure that the concerns and perspectives of operators are properly considered before any final recommendation is made.

The review will therefore consider both objective labour market information and the views of employees and their representatives.

While Cabinet has recognised the contribution made by heavy-duty equipment operators to the country's infrastructure programme and public works, no decision has yet been taken to increase their rates of pay.

The Government said any adjustment must be fair and equitable while remaining sustainable within the wider public-sector compensation framework.

Cabinet will also consider the potential impact of any increase on existing wage structures and the possibility of creating unintended disparities among public-sector positions.

The Government reiterated its commitment to balancing the income and welfare of public-sector workers with the need for sound fiscal management and sustainable public expenditure.

The subcommittee is expected to complete its assessment, conduct the necessary consultations and submit its recommendations to Cabinet.

Any revised rates will only be considered after Cabinet receives and assesses the subcommittee's recommendations.

Cabinet Supports Young Antiguan Artist as Part of CHOGM 2026 Outreach Efforts



A young Antiguan artist is using her talent to help tell the story of Antigua and Barbuda as the country prepares to host the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Kimberly Pimentel has created a CHOGM-inspired painting capturing the nation's landscape, culture and identity.

The twenty-one-year-old self-taught artist was challenged by the CHOGM 2026 Outreach Committee to create an original piece inspired by the country's hosting of the major international summit in just over

three months.

Her completed painting brings together elements of Antigua and Barbuda's landscape, culture and identity, offering a visual glimpse of what Commonwealth delegates and visitors can experience when they arrive.

Pimentel, who began exploring painting a mere two years ago, was moved by the opportunity she was awarded; to contribute creatively to such an important national occasion.

"Being able to create a piece inspired by CHOGM and Antigua and Barbuda is

a special opportunity," Pimentel said. "I wanted the painting to capture elements of our country while giving viewers a sense of what they can look forward to experiencing when they visit. I am grateful for the opportunity to use my art to contribute to this important national moment."

The artwork was first presented to Foreign Affairs Minister and CHOGM 2026 National Taskforce Chair, E. P. Chet Greene, who invited Pimentel to present the piece to Cabinet.

There, following Pimentel's presentation, Prime

Minister the Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne praised the young woman's contribution, calling the piece a "wonderful example of the talent and creativity that exists among the nation's youth."

The nation leader stressed that as the country prepares to host CHOGM in November "it is important that our young people see themselves as part of this historic occasion." He added that the Government is "pleased to support efforts that give talented young Antiguan opportunities to contribute and to showcase what our country has to offer."



The initiative, according to CHOGM 2026 Outreach Lead Briana Anthony, is designed to reach citizens through diverse platforms and creative spaces.

Anthony said “Kimberly’s work is an excellent example of how our young people can contribute through their talents and creativity. Through her artwork, she has found a unique way to tell the story of Antigua and Barbuda and give the Commonwealth a glimpse of the beauty, culture and character that visitors will experience. CHOGM is a national moment, and we want Antiguan and Barbudans, particularly our young people, to see themselves as part of it.”

The young artist accepted the praise with grace saying, “Their support is an incredible encouragement and reinforces the importance of creating opportunities for young people to develop and share their talents.” Pimentel thanked all associated parties for the opportunity she was rewarded.

The artwork will form part of the wider CHOGM 2026 public-awareness campaign and will be displayed at strategic locations across Antigua and Barbuda.

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Young Antiguan Step Into Diplomacy Ahead of CHOGM 2026



The programme also featured a number of engaging activities and interactions with diplomats and public officials. One of the highlights was a conversation with Ambassador Wriggly George, who spoke to the students about the importance of setting goals, believing in themselves and pursuing the opportunities and ambitions they have for their future. The discussion encouraged the students to think seriously about their aspirations and the steps they can take to achieve them.

The students also received an introduction to Mandarin with Ninette Benta-Lares from Fluent ED conducting an interactive language lesson. The session provided the students with an appreciation for the importance of language and cultural understanding in

Ten young Antiguan students who recently completed their Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) examinations were given a unique opportunity to step into the world of diplomacy through a special shadowing programme with the Hon. E. P Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration and Chair of the CHOGM 2026 National Taskforce.

The initiative formed part of the national outreach programme leading up to the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which Antigua and Barbuda will host from 1–4 November 2026.

Designed to give young people meaningful exposure to diplomacy and public service the shadowing programme allowed the students to experience first-hand the work taking place behind the scenes as Antigua and Barbuda prepares to welcome Commonwealth leaders and representatives from across the Commonwealth.

Throughout the day the students accompanied the Minister and were exposed to aspects of his work, gaining



insight into foreign affairs, international relations, government and the responsibilities involved in representing Antigua and Barbuda on the international stage.

diplomacy and international engagement, while adding an interactive and enjoyable element to the day.

As part of the experience the students also participated directly in CHOGM



outreach efforts. They visited the Directorate of Gender Affairs, where they delivered presentations on CHOGM 2026 sharing information about the meeting, its significance to Antigua and Barbuda and the importance of national participation.

The opportunity allowed the students to move beyond simply learning about CHOGM and become active contributors to the awareness campaign. They engaged with officials asked questions, shared their perspectives and used their communication and presentation skills to educate others about the upcoming Commonwealth meeting.

The programme provided exposure to diplomacy, leadership, public speaking, international relations, government, communications and public service, while also encouraging the students to consider the various educational and career opportunities available to them.

Minister Greene said:

“CHOGM is not only about the leaders and officials who will gather in Antigua and Barbuda; it is also about our people, particularly our young people, who are the future of this country and the Commonwealth. I wanted these students to have the opportunity to see, first-hand, what diplomacy, public service and international engagement look like and to understand that there are many pathways through which they can contribute to their country.

“Experiences like this can help young people identify their interests, build confidence and broaden their understanding of the opportunities available to them. As we prepare to welcome the Commonwealth family, I hope these students recognise that they too have a place in this historic moment and that their voices, talents and ideas can make a meaningful contribution to Antigua and Barbuda.”

Public Relations Officer and CHOGM 2026 Outreach Lead Briana Antho-

ny said the initiative was deliberately designed to make the CHOGM experience personal and meaningful for young people.

“We did not want the students to simply hear about CHOGM through a presentation. We wanted them to experience it. The shadowing programme gave them the opportunity to see diplomacy in action.”

Anthony added:

“As we prepare to welcome the Commonwealth family to Antigua and Barbuda it is important that our young people understand that CHOGM is also their moment. They have a role to play in how we welcome our visitors, tell Antigua and Barbuda’s story and represent the country. Giving them opportunities such as this allows them to build confidence, develop their skills and recognise that their voices and contributions matter.”

The day concluded with a luncheon hosted by Minister Greene providing an opportunity for the students to reflect on the experience, share their thoughts and continue discussions about diplomacy, education, leadership and possible career pathways.

As preparations continue for CHOGM 2026 the Taskforce will continue engaging schools, government departments, businesses, community organisations and other stakeholders to build awareness, encourage participation and ensure that the benefits and significance of hosting the Commonwealth family are understood across Antigua and Barbuda.



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Local News

Security Agencies Presenting a United Front for CHOGM 2026: Police and Defence Force to Engage in High Level Cooperation Alongside other Security and Public Safety Agencies

A coordinated, multi agency approach incorporating operations with the Police and Defence Forces, alongside other national security and Border Agencies is planned ahead of The Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting in November. The approach will emphasize close coordination, information sharing and clearly defined responsibilities among the participating agencies.

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda received the update on Wednesday via a comprehensive joint presentation from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force on security preparations for the November summit.

The presentation outlined the broad security framework being developed to ensure that CHOGM is conducted in a safe, secure and successful environment, with appropriate protection for visiting Heads of Government, delegates, officials, residents and visitors.

Cabinet was advised that preparations extend beyond the protection of conference activities to include border and airport security, public safety, cybersecurity and the protection of critical national infrastructure. At the same time, efforts are being made to minimise disruption to the normal activities of residents and businesses.

The security agencies indicated that



preparations will include further integration exercises, communications testing and rehearsals to ensure that participating personnel and agencies are fully prepared for the summit.

The cabinet expressed satisfaction with the level of planning undertaken to date and stressed the importance of continued training, coordination and readiness in the period leading up to CHOGM.

Cabinet also reaffirmed the Govern-

ment's commitment to providing the resources and support necessary for the security agencies to effectively discharge their responsibilities.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains confident that the collaborative efforts of Antigua and Barbuda's security agencies, supported by regional and international partners, will contribute to the successful hosting of CHOGM 2026 while maintaining the safety and security of the nation and the general public.



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Antigua and Barbuda's Plant Protection Chief Elected Chairman of 2026 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean

Regional deliberations advance plant health governance, international standards and Caribbean phytosanitary preparedness

Dr Janil Gore-Francis, Head of the Plant Protection Division of Antigua and Barbuda, was elected Chairman of the 2026 International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Regional Workshop for the Caribbean, held from 24-26 August 2026 at the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana. In this capacity, Dr Gore-Francis presided over the workshop and guided the regional deliberations involving representatives of Caribbean National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), the IPPC Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The workshop provided an important forum for Caribbean countries to review developments in international and regional plant health governance. Discussions covered the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030; updates from the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, its Standards Committee, and its Implementation and Capacity Development Committee; phytosanitary risks associated with sea containers; laboratory diagnostic networking; and relevant decisions of



Dr Janil Gore-Francis

CARICOM's Council for Trade and Economic Development.

Participants also examined and provided regional input on draft international phytosanitary standards addressing the movement of citrus fruit, common bean seeds, apple fruit, banana fruit and taro corms, as well as the proposed revision of international guidance governing biological control agents and other beneficial organisms. Implementation and capacity-development sessions addressed the IPPC ePhyto Solution, the IPPC Plant Health Campus, implementation challenges and lessons learned, and priority actions under the Regional Plant Health Agenda.

Further sessions highlighted plant health and capacity-development initiatives being undertaken by regional and international organisations, along with practical experiences from Caribbean NPPOs in areas such as mobile plant health laboratories, seed certification and systems approaches to phytosanitary risk management. Priority regional concerns included emerging problems affecting sugarcane, preparedness for Tropical Race 4 and other significant plant health threats, and the safe provision of humanitarian aid.

As part of the regional topics of interest, Dr Gore-Francis delivered a presentation proposing the development of a Regional Initiative aimed at Safeguarding the Production and Movement of Palms. The presentation underscored the economic, food-security, environmental and aesthetic importance of palms to Caribbean countries, while drawing attention to the serious risk of spreading quarantine-significant palm pests through the movement of planting material, including seeds.

This iteration of the annual workshop served to augment the significant ongoing work of the NPPOs and partner organizations across CARICOM to meaningfully enhance the implementation of the 25% by 2025 + 5 initiative of CARICOM in the attainment of food security for the Caribbean region.



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CHOGM 2026 Outreach Reaches More Than 300 People in Two Days



The CHOGM 2026 Outreach Committee has intensified its national public awareness campaign with the launch of a Government Office Outreach Tour reaching **more than 300 individuals in just two days.**

The initiative is designed to ensure that people across Antigua and Barbuda are informed about the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) understand the significance of the country hosting the Meeting and are aware of the ways in which they can contribute to its successful hosting.

The Government Office Outreach Tour began with an engagement at the **Directorate of Gender Affairs** followed by a collaboration with **PDV Caribe**. The engagements provided participants with information on CHOGM 2026 its importance to Antigua and Barbuda and the role that individuals and organizations can play as the country prepares to welcome Heads of Government, delegates and visitors from across the Commonwealth.

Public Relations Officer and CHOGM 2026 Outreach Lead Briana Anthony said the Committee is focused on making sure the public is informed and included.

“We know that CHOGM 2026 is an

important conference not only for Heads of Government and delegates but for Antigua and Barbuda as the host country. We want our people to understand the significance of this moment and more importantly to know how they too can play a part. Our outreach is about bringing the conversation directly to people and ensuring that CHOGM is understood as a national opportunity.”

Anthony said reaching more than 300 individuals within two days demonstrates the importance of taking the campaign directly to workplaces and organizations.

“The response has been encouraging and it reinforces why this outreach is necessary. We are committed to expanding these engagements and reaching people across different sectors as we move closer to CHOGM 2026. The more informed our people are the better prepared we will be as a country to host the Commonwealth.”

Jeressa Jeremy, Communications Officer at the Directorate of Gender Affairs, said informing staff was an important part of the organization’s participation.

“It was important for us to ensure that our staff were informed about CHOGM 2026 and understood the significance of Antigua and Barbuda

hosting this important meeting. We were pleased to collaborate with the Outreach Committee and support efforts to bring the CHOGM message directly to our team.”

Jellette Ralph, General Manager of PDV Caribe said the organization placed particular emphasis on ensuring that its pensioners were included in the national awareness effort.

“At PDV Caribe we focused on ensuring that our pensioners were informed about CHOGM 2026 and understood what hosting this important meeting means for Antigua and Barbuda. We were pleased to collaborate with the Outreach Committee recognising that keeping our pensioners informed allows them to remain connected to this important national moment and understand how they, too, can be part of it.”

The Outreach Committee also acknowledges the support of the local business community. **Amie Cham, Cecil Joyce and Michaela Harris**, owners of **Hair by Amie, Tucker on the Girl and Her Luxenail Lounge** respectively generously provided prizes to their establishments for lucky participants during the outreach engagements.

The Committee sincerely thanks Ms. Cham, Ms. Joyce and Ms. Harris for their gracious support and contribution to the national outreach effort.

The Government Office Outreach Tour will continue with the Committee set to expand its engagements across government offices, private businesses, schools, communities and other stakeholder groups in the coming days and weeks.

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to host CHOGM 2026 the Outreach Committee is encouraging citizens and organizations to become informed, engaged and ready to play their part.

CHOGM 2026 is a national moment and everyone has a role to play.

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Commentary

Haiti After Kenscoff: Pledges and Promises Do Not Stop the Killing



By Sir Ronald Sanders

For generations, Kenscoff was where people from Port-au-Prince went to breathe. Its cool hills offered relief, and its farmers supplied the capital's markets. Gang attacks reached the commune in January 2025, but it remained an important barrier between gang-controlled territory and Pétiion-Ville. On the night of 23 August, the Viv Ansanm coalition launched its largest attack on the community so far.

The United Nations says at least 47 people were killed and 22 injured, including five children. Twenty-two people were reportedly executed inside a church compound where they had sought shelter, and more than 50 others were abducted. It was one of the largest mass kidnappings Haiti has suffered in recent years.

Kenscoff was not a failure of diagnosis or planning. The danger was known, security machinery existed and international assistance had been promised. It was a failure to act in time and with sufficient strength. That failure now has names, bodies and

grieving families attached to it.

Kenscoff's Mayor, Jean Massillon, said gang reconnaissance drones had been seen over the town 15 days before the attack. Yet the warning did not produce the protection required. After the massacre, the chief prosecutor, Fritz Patterson Dorval, said eight armoured vehicles were in the area. Armoured vehicles protect no one if they are not where they are needed when gunmen arrive.

The slaughter at Kenscoff was not an isolated act. On 25 August, the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti reported that, between April and June, at least 1,408 people were killed and 656 injured. Kidnappings rose from 57 in the previous quarter to 81. Fighting in Cité Soleil and the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac displaced more than 18,000 people.

During the same period, the United Nations documented 796 victims of gang-related rape: 772 women, 23 girls and one man. They ranged in age from ten to seventy-one. Eighty-seven per cent were raped by more than one attacker, sometimes in the presence of their children or other relatives. In several cases, their homes were looted and burned.

The report also raises serious questions about the conduct of the security forces. Forty per cent of those killed or injured during the quarter were victims of security operations against gangs. Twelve per cent of them had no gang association, including children struck by bullets or drone explosions. The United Nations says it has received no information that investigations have been opened into these deaths and injuries.

On 25 August, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the Kenscoff massacre and called for those responsible to be

brought to justice through the specialised judicial units established with international support. No one doubts the sincerity of that statement. But condemnation has become the cheapest commodity in the international system. Haitians want to know which government will put an aircraft, a vehicle, an investigator or a prosecutor behind the words.

Kenscoff has exposed the central weakness of the Gang Suppression Force. It exists in mandate, but lacks the numbers and reach required to protect the Haitian people. The United Nations Security Council authorised 5,550 personnel. In July, only about 1,000 were in Haiti.

Jack Christofides, the Special Representative for the Force, told the Security Council that its headquarters, rules of engagement, intelligence structures and first forward operating base had been established, and regular patrols and initial operations had begun. These preparations do not amount to the operational strength required to confront gangs across several regions of Haiti.

The Force's initial authorisation expires on 30 September, yet it remains far short of its authorised strength. Personnel, equipment and money have been promised, but promises do not secure communities. Countries with strategic airlift capacity must help move pledged contingents and their equipment to Haiti. A soldier pledged by a country but left at home cannot protect a family in Kenscoff.

Romain Le Cour, head of the Haiti Observatory at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, said of the international force and Haitian police: "They don't have enough personnel." He is right. One thousand personnel cannot protect Delmas, Tabarre, Cité Soleil, the Ar-

Commentary

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tibonite, Mirebalais and Kenscoff simultaneously. The gangs understand the arithmetic. They stretch the security forces by attacking communities where the State is already weak.

Even a fully deployed force will not succeed if the ground it recovers cannot be held by Haitian institutions. Monica Juma, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, told the UN Security Council in July that Haiti is facing “a governance crisis, driven by organised crime”. She warned that, without functioning courts, prisons, police institutions and financial investigations, security gains would be temporary.

From 16 to 19 August, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Albert Ramdin, led a high-level delegation to Haiti. It included CARICOM Secretary-General Carla Barnett and representatives of the United Nations, the Pan American Health Organization and international financial institutions. Ramdin returned with an unambiguous message: the Gang Suppression Force needs more personnel, financing, logistical support and operational capacity, and progress must become “visible and measurable as soon as possible”.

As this Commentary is written, the Permanent Council of the OAS is due to consider how the organization can support Haiti. The Council must not receive another report only to file it among the growing collection of plans for Haiti. It must require a programme of action identifying what will be delivered, by whom and by what date. Commitments of personnel, equipment, strategic airlift and money should be published. So should failures to honour them.

The OAS can use its machinery against organised crime, illicit firearms and money laundering to bring together customs services, financial intelligence units, coastguards, police forces and prosecutors. The weapons used in Kenscoff were not made there.

The money used to buy and transport them did not appear from nowhere. The suppliers, financiers and political protectors of the gangs must be identified, sanctioned and prosecuted.

Haiti is a member of CARICOM and a founding member of the OAS. Its people are our people. Caribbean countries have limited resources, but we do not have limited standing. Our voices should be heard, and our actions must be seen and measured.

Kenscoff has stripped away every excuse. The danger was known. Personnel and equipment had been prom-

ised. Institutions had been created. Yet people were left to die. Governments must now be judged not by the plans they approve or statements they issue, but by the personnel, equipment, investigators and prosecutors they put into the field. Anything less leaves the next Haitian community waiting for its turn to be slaughtered.

(Sir Ronald Sanders is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also Chancellor of the University of Guyana. The views expressed are entirely his own.)

NOTICE

Nikkita Sadi S. Morrison-Spencer
Friars Hill Road
St. John`s
Antigua
Tel# 725-6749

The Licensing Magistrate,
District “A”
High Street,
St. John`s
Antigua.

The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters,
American Road,
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I, Nikkita Sadi S. Morrison-Spencer of Friars Hill Road, in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the special session to be held at the Magistrates Court, St. John`s, Antigua on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2026 next ensuing for a Tavern Licence in respect of my premises known as “Fresh Fusion” situate at Friars Hill Road, St. Jon`s, Antigua Pursuant to Section (11) (1) (a) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition.

Dated the 23rd day of July, 2026
Nikkita Sadi S. Morrison-Spencer



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St. John's, Antigua

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Regional News

Seven Jamaicans awarded UK government scholarships

Seven Jamaicans have secured fully funded UK Government scholarships for the 2026 academic year, earning places in one-year master's programmes at some of the United Kingdom's leading universities.

The cohort comprises three Chevening Scholars and four Commonwealth Scholars, representing six parishes and a diverse range of disciplines, including finance, technology law, entrepreneurship, construction economics, global health, community development, and innovation and technology management.

The scholarships are designed to equip recipients with specialised knowledge, international networks, and fresh perspectives that they can apply to Jamaica's development on their return.

The three Chevening Scholars are Akeem Campbell of St Mary, who will pursue a Master of Finance at the University of Cambridge; Shaqkeera Douglas of Kingston, who will read for an LLM in Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law at Queen Mary University of London; and Melisha Gordon of St Andrew, who will pursue an MSc in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management, also at Queen Mary.

The four Commonwealth Scholars are Jerome Garwood of Hanover, who will pursue a Master's in Construction Economics and Management at University College London (UCL); Ricardo Hunter of Manchester, who will undertake an MSc in Innovation and Technology Management at the University of Bath; Emoney Clayton of Hanover, who will pursue an MSc in Global Health and Development at UCL; and Lamar-Shey Grant of Clarendon, who will read for an MA in Applied Anthropology and Community Development at Goldsmiths, University of London.

The Chevening Scholarship is the UK



Government's flagship international scholarship programme. Established in 1983, it welcomed its first full cohort of scholars in 1984. Jamaica has participated in the programme since then, and with the addition of this year's recipients, approximately 337 Jamaicans will have received Chevening awards.

The programme funds one-year master's degrees for emerging leaders and individuals with the potential to drive positive change in their countries and communities. Jamaican alumni are represented across government, diplomacy, business, media, civil society, and academia.

Melisha Gordon said receiving a Chevening Scholarship marks the fulfilment of a goal she has pursued for more than a decade.

An attorney-at-law and entrepreneur, Gordon has worked across Jamaica's public and private sectors in corporate governance, data privacy, commercial law, legislative and policy development, and regulatory compliance. She currently serves as legal counsel and corporate secretary at GraceKennedy Limited.

Gordon said she first aspired to join the programme in 2015 but waited until the timing felt right.

"Her long-term ambition is to design and test practical solutions to accelerate digital transformation among micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), helping Jamaican businesses become more productive, competitive, and innovative," she said.

Commonwealth Scholar Ricardo Hunter described the award as the realisation of a goal he placed on his vision board in 2023.

A mechanical engineer and officer in the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), Hunter graduated from the University of Technology, Jamaica, with First Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering. Since joining the JDF in 2018, he has completed specialised training with the Royal Navy and served in several leadership roles within the JDF Coast Guard. He currently serves as ship executive officer and second-in-command of the Marine Engineering Workshop and Flotilla Command.

At the University of Bath, Hunter will study Innovation and Technology

Regional News

PAGE 21

Management.

“I plan to use the knowledge gained to advance defence innovation, strengthen engineering capabilities, and develop technology-driven solutions in maritime security and the wider public sector,” he said.

For Emoney Clayton, the scholarship offers an opportunity to address challenges she has encountered within Jamaica’s healthcare system.

A medical-imaging specialist working across public and private healthcare facilities, Clayton is particularly interested in improving access to medical-imaging services in underserved communities and expanding mobile-imaging initiatives.

Through her MSc in Global Health and Development at UCL, she hopes to develop the leadership and policy-making skills needed to design and implement sustainable healthcare solutions.

“My long-term goal is to become a global healthcare leader and deepen my contribution to Jamaica’s health system in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and local and international stakeholders,” she said.

The significance of the scholarships was also underscored by British High Commissioner to Jamaica, Alicia Herbert, herself a Commonwealth Scholar from Trinidad and Tobago. Her UK scholarship, she has said, helped lay a pivotal foundation for the person and professional she became.

Addressing the 2026 recipients, she encouraged them to make the most of the experience.

“Make the most of the experience, work hard, have conversations that challenge you,” she urged.

She also reminded the scholars not to doubt that they belong in the spaces they are entering, encouraging them to bring their own experiences to the table while building meaningful communities and networks.

The reception also recognised two Jamaican recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth Trust 100 Young Leaders Awards 2026, Nicholas Kee and Zantaye Thomas.

The initiative recognises 100 out-

standing young changemakers from across the Commonwealth and commemorates what would have been Queen Elizabeth II’s 100th birthday on April 21. (Jamaica Gleaner)



Regional News



Senior cops targeted in cocaine probe



Nearly a dozen high-ranking policemen and soldiers are the targets of a widening narcotics investigation linked to the seizure of cocaine from a police storage facility in January, which has drawn the attention of Jamaica's international law-enforcement partners, sources have disclosed.

According to the sources, the investigation has been expanded to determine whether law-enforcement personnel significantly under-reported the quantity of cocaine seized during an operation in western Jamaica months earlier.

Two "illegal" parcels of cocaine were found inside a storage facility at the since-disbanded Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime Division (C-TOC) in January, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) disclosed in a statement, citing the findings of an internal audit.

The incident triggered an immediate high-level investigation and, weeks later, the division tasked with dismantling organised criminal syndicates in Jamaica was gutted by Police Commissioner Dr Kevin Blake, with the

more than 40 policemen and women assigned there transferred to other divisions.

The investigation spilled into the public domain yesterday when agents from the Major Organised and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) conducted an early-morning search operation at the St Andrew home of a senior officer who was assigned to C-TOC, according to multiple sources.

The senior officer was transported in handcuffs to two other locations in St Andrew and Clarendon, where search-

es were also conducted, sources revealed.

The search operations were expected to continue overnight into today at locations linked to other suspects.

"Our external partners are down our backs on this one," a top law-enforcement operative told The Gleaner last night.

MOCA confirmed late Wednesday that its agents were engaged in a series of operations to execute "search and seizure warrants at a number of locations across the Corporate Area as part of an on-going investigation".

However, Major Basil Jarrett, director of communications at MOCA, declined to divulge information about the investigation and the operations.

"Due to the sensitive nature of the investigations and today's operations, I am unable to divulge any additional details, except to say that the public will be apprised of more as soon as we are in a position to safely and responsibly do so," Jarrett told The Gleaner.

The audit of the storage facility at C-TOC was triggered by the arrest of Police Inspector Martin Walker, who was also assigned to C-TOC, the JCF said in a statement issued in January.

It was alleged that a quantity of cocaine was found in Walker's private vehicle during an operation on January 8. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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More than two tons of cyanide seized in Suriname

Surinamese police have seized more than two tonnes of cyanide at a checkpoint in Coronie, northwestern Suriname, in a shipment authorities believe was illegally brought into the country from Guyana.

The authorities said that more than two tons of the dangerous chemical had been transported in two trucks and that several people are assisting their investigations.

Cyanide is used in gold mining, among other things, but it poses a serious danger to people and the environment if stored, transported, or used improperly. The government has previously indicated that the import of cyanide is subject to regulations.

The police investigations are expected to determine the exact quantity, origin of the shipment, and the final destination, as well as whether permits were in place for the import and transport of the chemical.

Authorities said the more than two tons of the dangerous chemical had been transported in two trucks and several persons are assisting their investigations.

Guyana over the years has expressed the desire to phase out mercury and cyanide in gold production, but only last year Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharat said using mercury to extract gold is currently the cheapest method available to small miners here and banning it would put most of this country's small miners out of business.

However, he said, the government is seeking ways to incentivize movement to more environmentally friendly extraction methods, and already there has been significant



reduction from large and medium scale miners and notable progress in implementing the 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury.

“The challenge is with the smaller miners. If we should say to a miner, use this system ... They would have to invest \$5 million..., whatever it costs to set up that system. ... Basically we are putting them out of operation. And you know it is difficult for the small miners to invest in a system that costs \$5 million or \$10 million even though it may increase their recovery rate,” Bharrat was quoted in a Stabroek News report.

Bharrat said then that while globally there are alternatives to mercury use for gold extraction for small miners, they are also not readily available. “There are alternatives that are available, but not affordable to the small miners,” he stressed.

“We are trying to get them to work in groups but that is a challenge also. That is to have the small

miners, to have all of them working together and have one central location where they process their gold. ... The challenge is because they are spread out, getting their materials to that central point is not easy, because a small miner might not have a truck to move from one location to another to process at a central area,” he explained according to the Stabroek News report.

Bharrat said that currently there is a National Action Plan for mercury use and it is moving to first reduce use before total eradication.

“We have come a long way. The large scale companies we have signed agreements with now, there will be no use of mercury cyanine agent... Many medium-scale approvals that we are giving now, we ensure that there is a clause there that says that mercury is prohibited, that is for new operations. For example, the Marudi agreement, that says no use of mercury. We are satisfied they are adhering ...,” he said. (CMC)

Regional News



Million-dollar prison contraband trade exposed

A million-dollar underground economy is thriving within the nation's prisons, Prison Officers' Association general secretary Lester Logie has said.

Logie made the disclosure yesterday during an interview on TV6's Morning Edition programme. His response came in relation to an Express article titled "Prisons Service vows crack-down" which was published yesterday.

In that article, acting Prisons Commissioner Elvin Scantbury had vowed to tackle rogue officers "head-on" after Monday's arrest of an off-duty woman prison officer who was allegedly attempting to enter the women's prison with contraband.

Police subsequently disclosed that the officer was found with 458 packets of cigarettes, 189 grammes of marijuana, two headsets, eight AAA batteries and 12 effervescent tablets.

Asked yesterday what measures could be taken to identify and remove corrupt elements from the Prison Service, Logie said attempts to smuggle contraband into prisons could never be completely eradicated.

"It's a thriving underground economy and it is worth millions of dollars," he said.

Logie explained that a large portion of the prison population consists of remanded inmates, people who have

been arrested and charged but have not yet been convicted.

"They got charged and they will come in and each has their addictions. They might be addicted to cocaine, marijuana, nicotine, and those habits will not stop overnight in the prison," he said.

"We don't expect that you would bring in somebody and overnight they will no longer have a smoking problem or a cocaine addiction or even an alcohol addiction."

Logie said the situation was further complicated by overcrowding and the amount of time inmates spend confined to their cells.

"We put them in an overcrowded box (cell) for sometimes up to 23 hours a day, and they will look for means of getting their addiction fix, so the Commissioner has this challenge in terms of how he treats with it," he said.

Logie also said some prison officers turned a blind eye to contraband out of fear for their own safety.

"There are officers who will turn a blind eye for their self-preservation," he said, claiming that he knew of at least two officers who were killed following incidents at the Port of Spain Prison involving the seizure of contraband and cellphones.

Logie said some prison officers had also become financially compromised because of gambling debts.

"I would say they have become bonded to some of these criminal elements, and so they will take that risk of bringing things into the prison," he said.

According to Logie, some officers had been paid by inmates and, in some cases, inmates had provided officers with vehicles.

He claimed he personally knew of officers who arrived at work driving cars owned by inmates.

Logie also alleged that inmates had supplied some officers with SIM cards carrying cellphone credit worth as much as \$50,000.

He said the cellphone credit could subsequently be sold on the public market, effectively converting the credit into hard cash.

"And we have members of the public buying phone cards on the side of the road and the phone card is from a phone in the prison," he said.

"So, there are ways that these people might move money and so, this is a well-connected, underground economy and we have officers involved. Yes, it is unfortunate, but it's a reflection of society, so we have a crime problem and the prisoners are just a microcosm of it," Logie said. (Trinidad Express)

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Alleged 9/11 mastermind to go on trial in June 2028



Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, will go on trial before a US military court in June 2028, an official said Thursday.

A spokesman for the US military court at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where Mohammed is incarcerated, said the trial would begin on June 5, 2028.

Mohammed, also known as “KSM”, was considered one of Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden’s top lieutenants before he was captured in March 2003 in Pakistan.

He was imprisoned in secret CIA facilities for three years before arriving

at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay in 2006.

His trial has been repeatedly delayed and a plea deal that would have seen the death penalty taken off the table was withdrawn last year.

The trained engineer — who has said he masterminded the 9/11 attacks “from A to Z” — was involved in a string of major plots against the United States, where he attended university.

His deadliest was the 9/11 operation, which saw nearly 3,000 people killed after hijacked planes rammed into the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, with another crashing in a Pennsylvania field.

Mohammed also claims to have helped in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six people and to have personally beheaded US journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002.

The United States uses Guantanamo, an isolated naval base, to hold militants captured during the “War on Terror” that followed the September 11, 2001 attacks in a bid to keep the defendants from claiming rights under US law.

The facility held roughly 800 prisoners at its peak, but they have since slowly been sent to other countries. A small fraction of that number remains. (AFP)



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Nepal's catastrophic floods kill more than 350, with over 1,300 missing



Images showed what appeared to be the second floors of buildings in Nepal's hard-hit Nuwakot district slathered in mud after the torrent rushed by. Debris hung from tree branches and wires, vehicles were buried and some stunned survivors were caked in mud.

Rescue teams searched on Thursday for hundreds of missing people along the Nepal-China border, where a catastrophic and deadly torrent of water and mud several stories high swept through communities a day earlier following a glacier collapse.

Videos of the disaster showed people running before the floodwaters swallowed them up and washed out buildings and bridges. At least 353 people were killed, police said, and more than 1,300 are missing, including scores of foreigners and pilgrims. Hundreds others have been displaced across the Himalayan region.

The steep slopes and lush valleys below the Himalayan mountain range – home to many of the world's highest peaks and remaining glaciers – are especially vulnerable to flooding and landslides. Melting glaciers have become more common because of human-caused climate change.

Nirajan Paudyal, a journalist based in Nepal's capital of Kathmandu, worried for his parents and other relatives who live in the small village of Soley in the district.

"There is no update till now. I fear there won't be any update," Paudyal said.

The disaster has left at least 826 people missing in Nepal. Authorities in Tibet, an autonomous region of China, reported at least three dead and 558 missing.

Nepalese officials said that dozens of bridges were destroyed and nearly 40 kilometers (25 miles) of roads were damaged, complicating search efforts.

The Nepalese army has rescued more than 100 people from flood-affected areas through helicopter operations, army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet said. Army teams also

evacuated people trapped inside facilities linked to the Trishuli hydropower project, he added.

Dozens of injured people have been transported to Kathmandu for advanced medical care.

Rescuers found bodies hundreds of kilometers (miles) in Chitwan district downstream from the hardest-hit areas.

Bishal Kumar Bhandari, chairman of the Nepal Red Cross Society, said they have shifted their focus from rescue to large-scale relief operations in the flood-hit districts. He said that around 1,200 people were displaced from at least three villages.

In Tibet, a mudslide that struck near the land border crossing of Gyirong Port on Wednesday left mud in the surrounding areas that was more than one-and-a-half meters (five feet) deep on average, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported. Roads leading to the crossing were all damaged, while secondary collapses or landslides might occur as rain continued in the area, it added.

China's premier, Li Qiang, arrived in Gyirong on Thursday to direct rescue efforts, alongside 500 military and paramilitary personnel.

Chinese authorities also warned that a barrier lake, which formed at the confluence of the Tsogyal and the Purupqiangzangbu rivers, is overflowing and may burst.

The United Nations' humanitarian



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chief, Tom Fletcher, announced Thursday on X that he has ordered the release of \$2 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund to help with medical care, shelter and water. He called the floods "horrificing".

Many are still waiting to hear if their loved ones are alive.

Shova Shrestha, 33, has spent more than a day waiting for news of her husband, Rajan Shrestha. She said his phone rang when she first called after the floods, but later became unreachable. Since then, she has watched every helicopter that landed in Bidur, the capital of Nuwakot district, hoping he might be among the survivors.

"I keep looking at each helicopter, hoping he will step out of it," Shova said.

Among the missing are 517 foreigners, according to Nepal's Tourism Board.

They include 178 people from India, more than 60 from the US and others from 30 other countries, ranging from Ukraine and the UK to South Africa and Japan, the board said.

Many of the missing may have been on a pilgrimage to Mount Kailash in Tibet, a sacred site for Hindus, Buddhists and others.

Seventy-seven people from one pilgrimage group were caught in the floods at the immigration office at the border, according to a post on X from Indian spiritual guru and the head of the Isha Foundation, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.

A visibly emotional Sadhguru said in a video that the group included 22 US nationals and others from various countries. He said that there was no official information on their whereabouts.

"Looking at the scale of destruction, it looks bad. The same building where we were for the immigration just a week ago, that entire building is washed away," Sadhguru said.

India's Ministry of External Affairs

said Thursday 288 of their nationals, including some workers on a power project, were missing.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Lin Jian said that nearly 100 Chinese citizens were missing in Nepal. He said that according to preliminary information, 260 of those missing in Tibet were foreigners.

The US Geological Survey first reported a magnitude 4.4 earthquake early Wednesday, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) north of Kathmandu, near the border.

The USGS later updated its analysis to say the seismic event was instead a magnitude 5.2 glacier collapse that sent debris flowing downstream.

Climate experts at the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Inte-

grated Mountain Development said an avalanche from a glacier likely caused Wednesday's flash flood.

In an emailed statement, they said water levels at one point on the Trishuli River rose by as much as nine meters (27 feet) in half an hour.

The disaster in Nepal and Tibet is not a one-off. The increasingly unstable Himalayan ice system threatens communities, infrastructure and water supplies across one of the world's most densely populated regions.

The region saw similar flash floods in August 2025, when a glacial lake in Tibet overflowed because of high temperatures. Nine people were killed, and critical infrastructure, including a bridge connecting Nepal and China, was damaged. (AP)



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Collapsed glacier may have triggered devastating Nepal-Tibet floods — scientists



A huge piece of ice that fell thousands of metres from a glacier into a river below may have unleashed the disaster in Nepal and Tibet that killed at least 362 people, left 1,400 missing and swept away entire villages.

Here is what experts believe happened so far:

A glacier collapse in Nepal's mountains near Tibet appears to have triggered the disaster.

"A large chunk of glacier fell from about 5,200 metres (about 17,000 feet)... into a valley," said Simon Cox, principal scientist at New Zealand's GNS Science.

It "transformed into this raging mass of debris... where it picks up rocks and sediment and trees and anything in

the way and fires it on down through the canyon," he told AFP.

The wall of water first impacted a border post, as documented in terrifying CCTV footage showing mud and debris engulfing the area as people fled before it.

It then travelled downstream into Nepal, flooding villages and bringing down bridges and buildings.

The glacier collapse was large enough to register as a seismic event, initially mistaken for an earthquake.

But after further analysis, the US Geological Survey determined "that the seismic event was instead a glacial collapse and debris flow, and that no earthquake had occurred".

The collapse registered as a 5.2-magnitude "seismic event", which took place at 8:37 am.

Estimating just how much of the glacier collapsed will take time, Cox said, but it could range from "half a million cubic metres to tens of million cubic metres".

With the affected area largely inaccessible, experts are using satellite imagery and any available measurements on the ground to reconstruct the disaster.

"We can look at satellite imagery taken before and after the event, and try and see what has changed, essentially looking for what is missing from the mountains in the 'after' imagery," said Lauren Vargo, a glaciologist at New

Zealand's Victoria University of Wellington.

Soon after the seismic activity was recorded, a nearby water monitoring station stopped transmitting, Nepali authorities said.

Stations downstream began going offline one by one, though water was registered reaching up to 12.3 metres high in Kalikhola, near the Tibet border at 2:14 pm, they added.

Early speculation suggested a glacial lake outburst flood, or GLOF, a growing risk as glaciers melt due to climate change.

A GLOF occurs when a fragile debris wall holding back a lake of glacier melt suddenly collapses, unleashing the water behind it.

Some experts suggested a GLOF might have been involved.

"Water does flow within glaciers and flows beneath glaciers," said Adrian McCallum, a glaciologist at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

"But to my mind, the only reason why a large volume of water should all of a

sudden flow down a valley is because it has been released," he told AFP.

Other experts said they did not detect existing glacial lakes near the site of the glacier collapse, and theorised that water collected under the glacier might have cascaded down with the falling chunk.

The falling glacier ice could also have briefly dammed the river, collecting water behind it that was released when it dislodged.

Summer glacier melt upstream and monsoon rains would mean the rivers were already high, and the volume of water was also swelled by debris and mud picked up as it travelled kilometres from the initial collapse, added Cox.

Nepali authorities first received word of a flood around 9:00 am local time, and began alerting areas along the Bhote Khoshi river to "stay on high alert and stay in safe areas".

But it is unclear how many people received the warning, or how much time they would have had to respond.

"The reality is, if you are in a community underneath a large glacier and po-

tentially a glacier lake where a GLOF could occur, then to some extent, it's a ticking time bomb," said McCallum.

And even for those receiving a warning, options would be limited, said Hatim Sharif, a hydrologist at the University of Texas San Antonio.

"Running will not help," nor will trying to flee by vehicle, he told AFP, because the mud and water moving at high speed form a lethal combination "like liquid concrete".

The only solution is to climb up a hill, at least 20 feet (six metres), he estimated.

While it is hard to immediately attribute any individual glacial event to climate change, the warming planet is a constant background stress on these ancient ice rivers, experts say.

Glaciers are retreating globally, creating disaster risks but also depriving downstream communities of vital water sources.

"The biggest way to mitigate the risk would be to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to limit warming," said Vargo. (AFP)



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St. Lucia Kings overpower Trinbago Knight Riders in CPL



St. Lucia Kings opener Tim Seifert, right, plays an attacking shot against the Trinbago Knight Riders during their CPL match at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Wednesday, August 26, 2026. (CPLT20)

The St. Lucia Kings recorded back-to-back wins in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) as they beat the Trinbago Knight Riders by 36 runs at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Wednesday night.

Tim Seifert recorded the first century of the CPL season with a sensational 105 not out to power the St. Lucia Kings to 211 for four off their 20 overs after being sent in to bat.

The Trinbago Knight Riders were then restricted to 175 for six off their allotted 20 overs, with Kieron Pollard smashing a topscore of 65 off 26 balls, including six fours and five sixes.

After making the highest total of the competition so far, captain Roston Chase produced a match-saving spell, grabbing three for 24, to lead the Kings to victory.

Sent in to bat by the Knight Riders, Tim Seifert and Kamil Pooran, who struck 25, got the Kings off to a blistering start, reaching 64 for one at the

end of the power play.

Seifert, who faced 61 balls, hitting eight fours and five sixes, worked the Knight Riders bowling attack with relative ease all around the ground to achieve his second century in the CPL.

Seifert received steady support and built big partnerships, adding 60 off 34 balls with Pooran for the first wicket, sharing a second-wicket stand of 75 off 38 balls with John Campbell, and putting on 51 in 36 balls with Charith Asalanka for the third wicket.

Campbell cracked 27 off 17 balls, while Asalanka hammered 33 off 21 balls, including three sixes and two fours.

The Knight Riders struggled to break through partnerships, and Abdul-Raheem Toppin and Dominic Drakes both went at over 16 an over without taking any wickets.

The Kings were able to maintain their tempo throughout the innings

and found at least one boundary in 18 of their 20 overs.

Shortly after the Kings passed the 200 mark, it was Seifert's moment as he became the first batter in this year's CPL to achieve a century.

The Knight Riders made a solid start with Colin Munro, who struck 48 off 35 balls, and opening partner, Sunil Narine, taking the total to 56 without losing any wickets at the end of the PowerPlay.

However, the game turned on its head in the 8th over when Roston Chase took three wickets in four balls, dismissing Narine for 25, and Matthew Breetzke and Nicholas Pooran without scoring.

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Munro, who struck six fours and two sixes, departed shortly after, falling to left-arm spinner Joshua Bishop. From there, the Knight Riders' run rate slowed, and the required run rate began to climb rapidly.

The Knight Riders had one last ace to play as Kieron Pollard entered the fray. The veteran used every bit of his physical prowess to blast the ball to all regions of the Queen's Park Oval.

It was still a tall order, but as long as Pollard was there, there was belief. But any lingering hopes of victory for the Knight Riders were effectively ended by the tournament's leading wicket taker, Matthew Forde, who forced a top edge from Pollard and took a simple catch.

From there the Kings canter to the finish line with Forde, who took one for 31, and pacer Keon Gaston, with one for 26, taking them to victory.

Massy Finance Remittances and MoneyGram partner with CPL

Massy Finance Remittances has signed a three-year sponsorship agreement with the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), bringing together two brands with a shared connection to Caribbean people, families, and communities across borders.

The partnership will give MoneyGram customers opportunities to get closer to CPL cricket through promotions, match experiences and other activities during the tournament, while strengthening Massy Finance Remittances' engagement with customers across its Caribbean markets.

For thousands of Caribbean families, sending and receiving money represents a vital connection between loved ones across borders. It helps parents support children, relatives care for loved ones, and families separated by geography remain connected. Cricket has its own powerful ability to cross borders, generations and cultures, bringing Caribbean people together at home and throughout the diaspora.

It is that shared power of connection that sits at the heart of this new partnership.

"Remittances and cricket may seem very different, but they have something important in common: both connect Caribbean people across borders," said Neela Marquez, CEO, Massy Finance Remittances.

"Every day, we see what receiving money from a loved one can mean to a family. It is a connection between people sometimes separated by thousands of miles who continue to support and care for each other."

"CPL creates that same sense of connection on an extraordinary scale. For a few weeks every year, Caribbean people at home and across the diaspora share the excitement, pride and passion of our cricket. This partnership gives us an opportunity to celebrate those con-



From left to right: Kamil Pooran of St. Lucia Kings; Neela Marquez, CEO of Massy Finance Remittances; Tara Wilkinson-McClean, Head of Partnerships for CPL; and Khary Pierre of Guyana Amazon Warriors celebrate the partnership. (CPLT20)

nections and, importantly, to give our MoneyGram customers experiences that bring them even closer to the game they love."

Under the three-year agreement, Massy Finance Remittances and CPL will collaborate on customer promotions, opportunities to attend matches and other fan experiences throughout the tournament. Details of individual promotions and participating markets will be announced during the CPL season.

The partnership forms part of Massy Finance Remittances' broader focus on deepening relationships with customers and creating greater value around its remittance services.

Tara Wilkinson-McClean, Head of Partnerships for the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League, said, **"We are delighted to welcome Massy Finance Remittances and Money-**

Gram to the CPL family. CPL has always been about more than cricket. It celebrates Caribbean culture, community and the connections that unite our region and its people around the world.

"Those values make this a natural partnership, and we look forward to working with Massy Finance Remittances over the next three years to create exciting experiences for MoneyGram customers and CPL fans across the region."

The partnership begins with the 2026/2027 Republic Bank CPL season and will be activated across participating Caribbean markets over the three-year term.

Further details on MoneyGram customer promotions, match experiences and other activities will be announced through Massy Finance Remittances' channels during the tournament.

Guyana prepares to host first Carifta Games

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – A new chapter in Caribbean athletics is being written as Guyana officially kickstarts preparations to host the 2027 CariftaGames, marking the first time in history the nation will welcome the region's premier youth track and field championship.

With the prestigious event scheduled for March 27 to 29, 2027, at the National Track and Field Centre in Leonora, a high-powered delegation from the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association (NACAC) has arrived on Guyanese soil to launch the initial assessment phase.

Led by NACAC president Michael Sands and Technology Commission Chair John-Paul Clarke, the regional athletics governing body conducted an extensive walkthrough of the Leonora facility on Monday, evaluating the venue that will serve as the centerpiece of the three-day spectacle.

The site visit brought together key stakeholders, with Ministers of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr and Steven Jacobs joining Director of Sport Steve Ninvalle, National Sports Commission vice-chairperson Cristy Campbell, and Guyana Athletics Association president Sheryl Hermonstine alongside the NACAC officials.

The joint inspection allowed regional and local authorities to assess the country's current infrastructure and map out the logistical blueprint required to deliver a successful championship.

Critical discussions centred on facility upgrades, technical opera-



NACAC President Michael Sands, centre, and officials of the regional athletics governing body conduct a walkthrough of the National Track and Field Centre in Leonora, Guyana, on Monday, August 24, 2026.

tions, security arrangements, host capacity, and overall event readiness.

"This represents a monumental occasion for Guyanese sport," the delegation noted during the visit, as the nation prepares to welcome the Caribbean's finest junior athletes.

The awarding of the 2027 edition to Guyana carries profound significance for the country's sporting fraternity. Despite being a long-standing participant in the CariftaGames and consistently producing standout athletes who shine across regional and international circuits, the nation has never before hosted the event.

First inaugurated in Barbados in 1972 by Austin Sealy to mark the historic transition from the Caribbean Free Trade Associa-

tion (Carifta) to the Caribbean Community (Caricom), the annual competition has evolved into the Caribbean's ultimate proving ground for junior athletic talent, launching countless careers on the global stage.

For Guyana, the 2027 Games represent more than just a hosting opportunity; they signal the nation's emergence as a legitimate destination for major regional sporting events and a chance to showcase its athletic infrastructure and hospitality to the Caribbean community.

With the groundwork now officially underway, all eyes will be on Guyana's progress as it embarks on this historic journey to deliver a memorable edition of the region's most anticipated junior athletics championship. (CMC)

UEFA prepares criminal complaint against FIFA's Infantino



FIFA President Gianni Infantino attends the closing ceremony of the Esports World Cup at the Grand Palais in Paris, France, Sunday Aug. 23, 2026. (AP)

MONACO (AP) — UEFA is preparing a criminal complaint against FIFA President Gianni Infantino in Swiss courts for possible financial mismanagement over his failed plan to sell future World Cup profits to private investors.

The governing body of European soccer announced its intentions in court documents filed Thursday in the United States of America seeking access to possible evidence related to the sell-off plan, which was withdrawn after a furious backlash by UEFA and other global soccer leaders.

The move increases the pressure on Infantino, who is facing the biggest crisis in his 10 years as FIFA's leader.

UEFA filed documents in a Manhattan court requesting discovery of potential evidence from the New York investment fund, Thrive Capital Management, founded by Josh Kushner — the younger brother of President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

UEFA also filed a request in a southern Florida district for authorization of discovery "in a foreign proceeding"

against FIFA itself, which has offices in the Miami suburb of Coral Gables.

Under the plan revealed in late July, Thrive and Kushner were to be the anchor investors intending to pay FIFA \$4.2 billion for a 20% stake in a subsidiary that would run the soccer body's commercial events, including the World Cup.

"UEFA and its counsel are contemplating a Swiss criminal proceeding against Infantino and possibly other FIFA officials for criminal mismanagement under Article 158 of the Swiss Criminal Code," UEFA's lawyers state in a 56-page document seen by The Associated Press.

The document suggests the US\$4.2 billion figure could be a "fraudulently off-market price promoted by Infantino for his own benefit."

FIFA is expected to have about US\$5 billion in cash reserves after the World Cup in North America boosted its revenue to a record \$15 billion over the 2023-26 commercial cycle.

Infantino dropped the sell-off plan on Aug. 1 after intense criticism led by

soccer officials in Europe.

UEFA first threatened to take legal action on Aug. 3 when it warned FIFA against destroying or hiding any "relevant materials" related to the plan. Thursday's legal move was revealed to its member federations in Monaco just two hours before the Champions League draw began.

"Infantino claimed that the plan would 'unleash the commercial potential and opportunity that FIFA has,'" UEFA lawyers told the courts. "In truth, it was a vehicle for Infantino and that small circle to acquire a permanent stake in and otherwise profit from FIFA's most valuable assets to the detriment of FIFA, its members, and other parties within the football family.

"Under the terms Infantino announced, those investors stood to acquire a permanent financial interest in FIFA's commercial arm for \$4.2 billion, implying an absurdly low enterprise value of only approximately \$20 billion, a figure that was neither the product of an open, competitive auction, nor tested by any independent valuer."

Thrive declined to comment. FIFA was approached for comment. It was unclear if UEFA would send a potential criminal complaint to the Swiss federal prosecution office in Bern or to local prosecutors in FIFA's home city Zurich.

The Swiss attorney general's office has a poor record in recent years prosecuting cases of alleged corruption linked to FIFA and soccer officials.

Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter, former UEFA president Michel Platini and the influential Qatari president of Champions League title holder Paris Saint-Germain, Nasser al-Khelaïfi, all were acquitted twice at trials in Switzerland.

Semi-finalists decided in Parham Super League



Former back-to-back champion Pigotts Bullets are through to the semi-finals of the Parham Super League football tournament in Parham.

The semi-final line-up has been decided in the fourth edition of the Parham Super League, which is organized by Eastboy Promotions.

The semi-finals will feature defending champions Garden Stars, former back-to-back winners Pigotts Bullets, the Freemans Village Scorpions, and the Potters Tigers.

The semi-finalists were determined following the completion of the last two matches in the preliminary rounds at the Parham playing field on Wednesday night.

The Pigotts Bullets qualified as second-place finishers in Group 2 after securing their third win in four matches with an 8-0 drubbing of Point West Ham in their final outing.

Troy Jules accomplished a remarkable feat in which he scored seven of his team's eight goals. Jules had conversions in the 20th, 28th, 50th, 56th,

59th, 64th, and 70th minutes.

Akeem Isaac scored the other goal for the Pigotts Bullets when he opened the scoring with a 15th-minute conversion.

Unbeaten Potters Tigers finished the preliminary stage at the top of Group 2 by virtue of winning all four round-robin matches. West Ham failed to win any of their four matches in Group 2.

Parham missed on reaching the semi-finals after securing their second win in four matches to finish third in Group 2.

Parham recorded a 3-1 victory over Glanvilles FC in their final encounter. The goals for Parham were scored by Denie Henry in the 15th minute, Jahvante Harriette in the 45th minute, and Tevaughn Harriette in the 57th minute.

Jayquanie Nantion scored a consolation goal in the 65th minute for Glan-

villes, who failed to win any of their four matches.

The Garden Stars advanced to the final four as Group 1 winners. The Freemans Village Scorpions qualified for the semi-finals by winning three of their four round-robin matches to finish second in Group 1.

The two semi-finals will be played at the Parham playing field on Friday evening.

The Potters Tigers will clash with the Freemans Village Scorpions at 6 pm, and Garden Stars will face the Pigotts Bullets at 7:30 pm.

The two semi-final winners will advance to meet in the final at the same venue on Sunday evening.

Similar to the third edition of the PSL in 2025, this year's winning team will take home a grand prize of EC\$3,000, with EC\$1,000 going to the runners-up.