

Security Confident About CHOGM

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George Alexander Sheppard Celebrates 100th Birthday, Receives Government's \$10,000 Gift

The Security Forces Say They Are Prepared For CHOGM



With the start of the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference (CHOGM) less than two months away, the local security forces are expressing confidence that after months of specialized and intense training and planning, that they are fully prepared to secure this major international event.

During the latest edition of the Road to CHOGM programme aired on ABS Television Wednesday night, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Louisa Quashie said she is confident that the security forces, including the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and other agencies have put in the hard work in preparation for the November 1 – 4 meeting.

Additionally, DCP Quashie revealed



that the local security forces will get assistance from a number of regional and international security agencies to assist with overall preparation.

Assistance is coming from the Regional Security Forces (RSS), the Jamaica Constabulary, and both the Canadian and UK armed forces.

Over the past several weeks, the security forces have mounted several exercises that were designed to sharpen their readiness for ‘any eventuality’ that may occur during the event.

Another senior member of the security team, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Samuel Joseph, said the security team learnt a lot from these exercises and because of that they are making adjustments to their plans.

“During Exercise Stronghold we learnt quite a lot and based on our assessment we have decided that on the day of the actual event – the opening ceremony on November 3, we will



not extend the security perimeter to New Street as we did during that exercise. Instead, we will only extend it to South Street and in the north, Newgate Street,” he revealed.

There were two other critical bits of information that he shared; the security perimeter will extend to parliament drive in the east, but during that particular day, no cruise ship will be allowed in the port.

“This is a critical issue and we are having discussions with the Antigua Cruise Port on this very matter and they are already cooperating with in this regard,” he announced.

The security forces also reported that very stringent security arrangements have been developed for all of the venues that will house CHOGM-related events. At some venues, such as the main conference centre, the American University of Antigua, this extensive security arrangement will be in place for the duration of CHOGM.



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Ministry Invites Stakeholders to Register Ahead of Consultations on the Disability Council, CHOGM Disability Rights Forum

The Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation is inviting all organizations,

institutions, and individuals involved in disability advocacy, service delivery, and support in Antigua and Barbuda to register as stakeholders ahead of the formal establishment of the Disability Council under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017.

The Disability Council is a body established under the Act to help guide, regulate, and provide recommendations on matters relating to disability in Antigua and Barbuda. Its establishment marks a significant step toward strengthening disability inclusion, promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, and supporting effective implementation of the legislation.

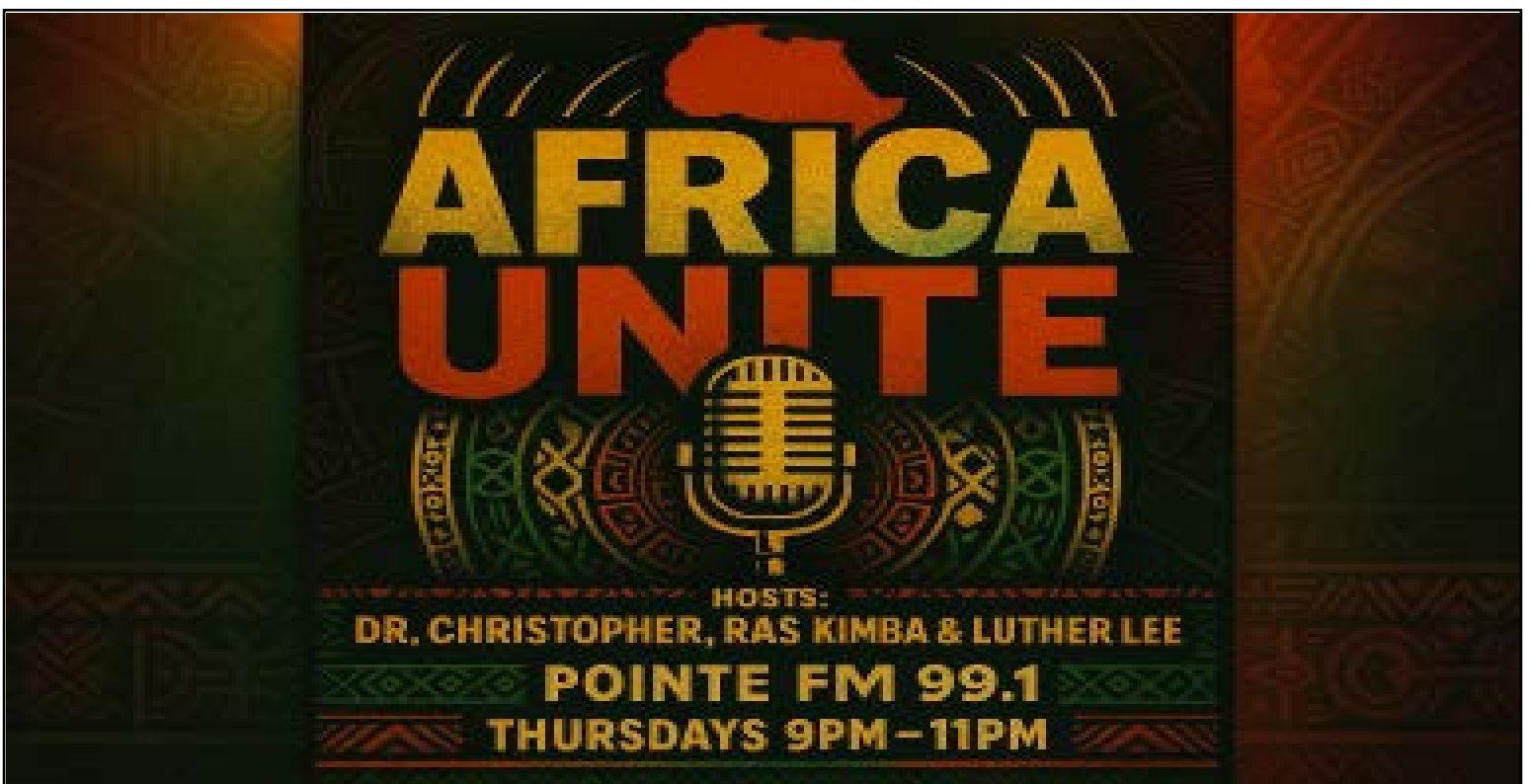
The Ministry recognizes the value of all stakeholders including community groups, service providers, and advocacy organizations doing meaningful work with and for persons with disabilities and wishes to ensure that the Disability Council is truly representative.



The exercise will also inform the country's preparation for the Symposium on Implementing Disability Rights Across the Commonwealth, to be held on 5 November 2026, organized by the Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Government of

Antigua and Barbuda.

Registration will remain open to ensure every eligible organization has the opportunity to be counted and are encouraged to register using the link: <https://forms.gle/HoZ9Y3fxz-vF8v51u9>.



Strong El Niño Drives Atlantic Hurricane Season Toward Below-Normal Activity

A strengthening El Niño that is approaching record levels for this time of year has pushed the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season further toward below-normal activity, according to climatologist Dale Destin.

Writing on his 268Weather blog, Destin said the latest and final update to his seasonal forecast now places the season most likely in the below-normal category, although there remains a slight possibility that activity could be well below normal.

The forecast, which incorporates data available through 30th August, calls for 10 named storms, three hurricanes and two major hurricanes, with an Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) index of 74.

The latest projection represents another downward adjustment from Destin's July forecast of 12 named storms, four hurricanes, two major hurricanes and an ACE of 99.

Destin places a 70 per cent confidence range at 7 to 13 named storms, two to five hurricanes, one to three major hurricanes and an ACE between 40 and 123.

According to Destin, the principal factor behind the increasingly quiet outlook is a very strong and strengthening El Niño, which is near record strength for this point in the year.

El Niño typically suppresses Atlantic tropical cyclone activity by increasing vertical wind shear, creating conditions that are less favourable for tropical systems to develop and strengthen.

Saharan dust remains another factor contributing to uncertainty. Destin noted that excessive concentrations of Saharan dust could suppress tropical activity even further.

The updated forecast assigns a 49 per cent probability of a below-normal season, compared with a 33 per cent chance of near-normal activity and an 18 per cent probability of an



above-normal season.

There is also a 17 per cent chance of a

super-hypoactive season, defined as an ACE value below 39.

The outlook for the peak period of the Atlantic hurricane season, August through October, has also been revised downward.

Destin is forecasting eight named storms, three hurricanes and two major hurricanes during the peak period, with an ACE of 67.

Despite the increasingly subdued forecast, Dale Destin cautioned against interpreting a below-normal season as meaning the Caribbean and Atlantic are out of danger.

He stressed that a below-normal season does not mean there will be no hurricanes or significant impacts.



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VACANCY

VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) invites applications for the position of Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance Supervisor within the Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Workshop (V&EMW). The successful candidate will be responsible for the daily supervision of maintenance and repair activities within the APUA V&EMW. This vital position ensures the Authority's fleet and equipment are operating safely, efficiently, and in compliance with APUA's operational standards. This crucial position also oversees workshop personnel, schedules preventive maintenance, monitors repairs, maintains records, and supports the implementation of safety and maintenance best practices.

Key duties include:

- Supervise daily workshop operations, staff assignments, workflow, productivity and turnaround times.
- Coordinate preventive and corrective maintenance of vehicles and equipment in accordance with APUA service standards.
- Diagnose, inspect, repair and maintain mechanical, electrical and other vehicle systems using appropriate diagnostic equipment.
- Ensure completed work meets quality, safety and technical standards through inspections and testing.
- Maintain accurate maintenance records and submit required workshop performance reports.
- Ensure the workshop, tools and equipment are safe, clean, organized and compliant with APUA procedures.

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Diploma or certification in Automotive Technology, Mechanical Engineering or a related field.
- Minimum of 5 years' progressive experience in vehicle/equipment maintenance; supervisory experience is an asset.
- Strong technical knowledge of diesel and gasoline engines, hydraulics, electrical systems and diagnostics.
- Proven leadership and team management skills, with the ability to motivate and develop staff.
- Strong problem-solving, planning and organizational skills, with the ability to manage competing priorities effectively.
- Strong commitment to workplace safety standards and compliance.
- Excellent oral and written communication and customer service skills.
- Proficiency in maintenance recordkeeping, digital tracking systems and reporting.
- Familiarity with APUA operational policies and public sector procurement processes is an asset.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

RE: Auto Mechanic

The Human Resources Manager - Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Drive, PO BOX 416
St. John's, Antigua

OR email - hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Thursday 3rd September , 2026

**** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged ****

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Local News

George Alexander Sheppard Celebrates 100th Birthday, Receives Government's \$10,000 Gift



Another Antigua and Barbuda national - George Alexander Sheppard – of Gunthorpes on Tuesday achieved the remarkable milestone of celebrating his 100th birthday.

The celebration was held at Sheppard's residence in Gunthorpes, where the Government of Antigua and Barbuda presented him with a EC\$10,000 cheque under its centenarian recognition initiative.

The government programme celebrates citizens who reach the age of 100 and recognises their longevity, sacrifices and contributions to the development of their families, communities and country. It also reflects the Government's continued commitment to honouring senior citizens and ensuring that their lives and legacies are celebrated.

Born in Jennings, Sheppard has lived in several communi-

ties throughout his life, including Winthorpes, Parham and All



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Saints, before eventually making Gunthorpes his home.

During his century of life, he has witnessed tremendous changes across Antigua and Barbuda while remaining a testament to the values of hard work, perseverance, love, commitment and devotion to family.

As is customary during the celebrations, the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams was on hand to join family and friends as well as representatives from the Ministry of Social Development in bringing joy to the celebrant. The programme included heartfelt remarks and presentations from representatives of the Community Development and Citizens' Engagement Division, Permanent Secretary Rosa Greenaway, Leader of the Opposition Jamale Pringle, and the acting director of Community Development and Citizens' Engagement.

Sheppard's great-granddaughter delivered a scripture reading, while his daughter shared touching reflections on his life and the impact he has had on his family.

Gifts were also presented to Sheppard in appreciation of his remarkable journey and contributions to his family and community.

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A vibrant poster for the Antigua Carnival 70th Anniversary. The background features three carnival dancers in elaborate costumes with large, colorful feathered headdresses. The central dancer is a woman in a gold and blue outfit, flanked by two men in similar attire. The scene is set against a backdrop of bright, colorful lights and a festive atmosphere. In the center, there is a stylized logo featuring a bird-like shape with a red star and a flag. Below the logo, the text "ANTIGUA Carnival" is written in a bold, pink, cursive font. Underneath, it says "THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "Legendary 70" is written in a large, pink, cursive font, with the "70" being particularly large and stylized. Below this, the dates "JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027" are displayed in a large, bold, pink, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Instagram, followed by the text "ANTIGUA CARNIVAL" and "@ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL".

ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

Legendary **70**

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027

 ANTIGUA CARNIVAL  @ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL

Commentary

We Cannot Discuss Suicide Prevention Without Confronting Child Sexual Abuse



By WISH

As Antigua and Barbuda observes Suicide Prevention Month amid an urgent national conversation on child protection, the Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH) is calling on the country to recognise the critical connection between childhood trauma, mental health and suicide prevention.

At the first National Child Protection Town Hall, officials disclosed that 287 reports of child abuse have been recorded so far this year, including approximately 30 cases involving sexual assault. Survivors also shared painful accounts of abuse, disbelief, victim-blaming and institutional failures that continued to affect their lives long after childhood.

These conversations cannot be separated from Suicide Prevention Month. Childhood sexual abuse is a serious adverse childhood experience that can have lasting consequences, including depression, post-traumatic stress and an increased risk of suicidal thoughts or attempts. However, suicide is complex and is rarely caused by one experience alone.

Not every survivor will experience the same effects, and survivors are not defined by what was done to them.

“When survivors tell us that they were abused, silenced, blamed or left unprotected, we must understand that these are not simply stories about the past,” said WISH Founder Chaneil Imhoff. “They are accounts of wounds that can follow people into adulthood when there is no safety, justice or meaningful support. We cannot say that we care about suicide prevention while dismissing the trauma that can contribute to emotional distress and hopelessness.”

WISH commends the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation and participating professionals for beginning a series of national town halls focused on child abuse, neglect, exploitation and the systems responsible for protecting children. The organisation urges residents to participate as the conversations move into communities across Antigua and Barbuda.

However, WISH stresses that conversation must lead to measurable action.

This must include:

- ▶ Accessible, confidential and trauma-informed mental-health care for children and adult survivors.
- ▶ Stronger protections for children who disclose abuse.
- ▶ Clear reporting and referral procedures across schools, churches, healthcare facilities, sporting organisations and other institutions serving children.
- ▶ Appropriate psychological support throughout investigations and court proceedings.
- ▶ Greater accountability for individuals and institutions that fail to report

or appropriately respond to suspected abuse.

- ▶ Public education about grooming, warning signs, consent, disclosure and the long-term effects of trauma.
- ▶ Careful consideration of how the National Sex Offender Register can more effectively protect children and prevent convicted offenders from gaining access to vulnerable groups.
- ▶ Sustained investment in the professionals and agencies responsible for child protection.

WISH is especially concerned about the victim-blaming that often follows disclosures of sexual abuse. A child cannot consent to sexual activity with an adult. Responsibility lies entirely with the person who caused the harm and with the adults and institutions that failed to protect the child.

Questions about what a child wore, why they did not disclose sooner, whether they appeared mature or why they maintained contact with the perpetrator are misplaced and harmful. Children may remain silent, delay disclosure or withdraw an allegation because of fear, threats, manipulation, dependency, shame or a belief that they will not be believed.

“Survivors should not have to present their pain perfectly in order to be believed,” Imhoff added. “Our first response should not be suspicion or interrogation. It should be safety, compassion and access to appropriate help. When a survivor is blamed for what happened, the shame that belongs to the perpetrator is unfairly transferred to the person who was harmed.”

WISH also reminds the public that speaking about suicide prevention requires more than encouraging individ-

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uals to “reach out.” Communities and institutions must become safe enough for people to reach out without being shamed, exposed, blamed or ignored.

Prevention means listening when a child’s behaviour changes. It means believing disclosures and reporting concerns. It means supporting survivors beyond the initial public outrage. It also means ensuring that profes-

sional mental-health care is available regardless of age, income or social standing.

The current child-protection town halls present Antigua and Barbuda with an opportunity to confront harmful beliefs, identify gaps in existing systems and establish clear national commitments. WISH urges the Government, civil society, faith-based or-

ganisations, schools, families and the wider public to treat child protection and mental health as interconnected national priorities.

During Suicide Prevention Month, WISH calls on the country to move beyond slogans and ask a more difficult question: **Are we creating a society in which people, particularly children and survivors, feel safe enough to tell the truth and supported enough to keep living?**

Anyone who believes that a child is being abused should make a report to the appropriate authorities. Anyone who believes that they or someone they know may be in immediate danger of suicide should contact emergency services, visit the nearest hospital and remain with the individual while urgent professional assistance is sought.

Silence protects perpetrators, not children. Compassion supports survivors. Action saves lives.


 An advertisement for 'THE PDV HOUR'. On the left, a woman with dark hair, wearing red-rimmed glasses and a colorful patterned jacket over a red top, is smiling. The background is a light blue gradient with water splashes. On the right, there is a logo for 'PDV Caribe Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.' featuring a stylized oil rig and the text 'PDV Caribe Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.'. Above this logo is a smaller logo for 'POINTE FM 99.1' with the tagline 'COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE'. Below the PDV Caribe logo, the text 'THE PDV HOUR' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. At the bottom right, the text 'MONDAYS 11AM - 12NOON' is written in bold, black capital letters. At the bottom left, the text 'MRS. JELLETTE RALPH (JELLY BEANS)' is written in bold, black capital letters.

Commentary

Social Worker Accuses Some Parents of Enabling the Sexual Exploitation of Their Children

Master Social Worker Koren Norton has issued a stark warning about the vulnerability of children in Antigua and Barbuda, claiming that some parents are knowingly allowing their children to enter exploitative sexual relationships in exchange for basic necessities.

Norton, who mentors students at several secondary schools, said she has heard disturbing accounts from young people who feel compelled to engage in sexual relationships simply to obtain school supplies.

“Our parents are supposed to be the gatekeepers, but what we have happening now is that some of our parents are prostituting their children,” Norton said.

She explained that some young people have told her they lacked basic necessities such as school bags, shoes and other supplies, and consequently entered sexual relationships with individuals who offered to provide those items.

“These are not the cell phones or sneakers, but to be able to get basic supplies, some of our young persons have to enter into relationships,” she said.

According to Norton, many of the parents are aware of what is taking place, with mothers often being the ones who know that their children are involved in such relationships.

She stressed that there is nothing inherently wrong with single-parent households, noting that many single parents are doing their best to provide for their children. However, she warned that children can become particularly vulnerable when a father is absent from their lives.

Norton also pointed to the intergenerational nature of abuse, explaining that mothers who were themselves



victims of abuse can respond differently to their own children’s experiences.

While some become strong advocates and protectors, she said others can remain vulnerable, contributing to a continuing cycle of abuse.

The Master Social Worker recounted the case of a 16-year-old girl who went to her home last year after being left to fend for herself when her mother entered a new relationship and had another child.

The teenager subsequently became involved with a man whom she initially believed she was in a consensual relationship with. Norton said the situation escalated when the man brought other individuals into the relationship. The situation further escalated when the girl eventually faced pressure to bring her 12-year-old sister into the situation in exchange for additional money.

“She said, ‘No, she’s only 12. You can’t do anything with her,’” Norton

recounted.

The perpetrators allegedly assured the teenager that they would not sexually assault her younger sister, but Norton said they failed to keep that promise.

The older girl was ultimately left dealing with intense guilt and distress after her younger sister was harmed.

According to Norton, the case illustrates the devastating circumstances in which vulnerable children can find themselves when they lack adequate protection and support.

Koren Norton argued that greater attention must be placed not only on prosecuting perpetrators but also on preventing abuse and educating parents to recognise when their children are in crisis.

She said parents should pay attention to changes in behavior.

“Sometimes they hide the cutting,” she said, pointing to self-harm as one possible warning sign. Norton noted that other signs include including declining school grades, isolation and self-harm.

Norton also raised concerns about vaping and substance use among young people, saying the challenges facing children extend beyond sexual abuse.

“We cannot be reactive after the fact,” she said. “We need to have a responsive plan. We need to prevent. We need to empower our young ladies and our young men.”

She also challenged churches and other community institutions to take a stronger role in protecting children. Norton recounted instances in which children who were allegedly sexually abused by family members were discouraged by church elders from reporting the abuse.

Commentary

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“We’ve had situations where the elders have gone to that child and said, ‘Don’t press charges. God says to forgive,’” she said.

She stated that such responses can further traumatise victims and allow perpetrators to escape accountability.

Norton urged communities to stop protecting individuals simply because they are family members, breadwinners or otherwise respected within the community.

“We know people who are predators. Do we speak up?” she asked. “We shouldn’t be covering for anybody.”

The Master Social Worker, who also has experience in the public health system, said meaningful action requires authorities and communities to examine the circumstances that push children into vulnerable situations, as well as the incentives predators use to lure them.

“We have to look at the push factors,” she said. “What is happening in the families that are pushing children out? And we have to look at the pull factors. What are these predators offering that make the children come?”

She pointed to poverty, hunger and unstable living conditions as some of the circumstances that can leave children vulnerable.

Norton said schools, families, churches, the media and the wider community all have a responsibility to intervene before children become victims.

“We need to empower our young ladies and our young men,” she said, while stressing that boys can also be victims of abuse.

Ultimately, Norton said protecting children cannot be left solely to social workers, police or the courts.

“It’s everybody’s business,” she declared. “Because the next child could be your niece, your granddaughter, your nephew. So it’s everybody’s business.”

Midweek Deals

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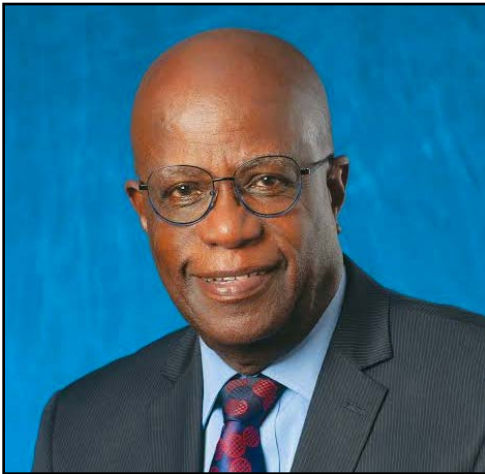
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**-Burger
-Medium Drink**



REPARATIONS: JAMAICA GOES TO THE PALACE



By Julian Rogers

On Monday, 7th September, something will happen in London that every citizen of a formerly colonised Caribbean nation should be watching closely. A high-level delegation representing the Government of Jamaica, led by Olivia Grange MP, Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, will formally file a petition with King Charles on the matter of slavery reparations.

This is not a symbolic gesture. As members of the Commonwealth, Jamaican citizens are exercising a right that has existed on paper for generations but has never, until now, been used for this purpose: the right to petition the Sovereign to refer a matter, in this case the issue of slavery reparations, to the Privy Council. It is the first time any Commonwealth state has pursued this specific legal route for the cause of reparatory justice, and it did not happen overnight. The Jamaican government has spent more than a decade building the legal case underpinning this petition, working with legal advisors in both Jamaica and the United Kingdom to make sure the argument arrives at the Palace gates with the weight of law behind it, not just the weight of history.

What strikes me most, watching this from the Caribbean rather than from a press gallery in Westminster, is how

deliberately the moment has been built around more than the filing itself. A full programme of events has been organised around the petition, and the sequencing tells its own story. On Sunday, the day before the petition is filed, an ecumenical church service focused on remembrance, justice and repair will be held at New Park Road Baptist Church in South London, a reminder that this movement did not begin in a legal chambers, it began in the pews, the yards and the oral histories of people who carried this story forward when no government would touch it. On Monday, alongside the petition, there is a political engagement event in Westminster, a meeting with the British Museum focused specifically on the repatriation of cultural artefacts taken from Jamaica, and a series of townhall style events with the Jamaican diaspora. Law, faith, culture and community, moving together, on the same calendar. That is not accidental. That is how you build a case that is difficult to dismiss as a single government's grievance and easy to recognise as a people's claim.

For those of us living and working in the region, the ripple effects of this moment will be felt well beyond Kingston. Jamaica is not making this move in isolation. CARICOM has had a ten-point reparations plan on the table for years, and every government in the region has, in one way or another, been waiting to see which of its members would be first to test a legal pathway rather than rely solely on diplomatic pressure. Jamaica has now answered that question. Whatever the Privy Council ultimately does with the referral, the act of filing changes the terms of the conversation for the entire Caribbean. It moves reparations from a topic raised at summits and anniversaries into a formal legal process with a paper trail, a precedent, and a date on the calendar that every other Commonwealth Caribbean state can now point to.

It is worth saying plainly what this is not. It is not a demand for a cheque and a closed file. The programme around the petition, particularly the British Museum meeting on cultural repatriation and the diaspora townhalls, points to something broader: a claim for the return of what was taken, in every sense of that word, artefacts, acknowledgement, and a fair seat in shaping how the relationship between Britain and its former colonies develops from here. That is consistent with how the reparatory justice conversation has been evolving across the region, from a backward-looking demand into a forward-looking case for structural repair, development financing, and genuine partnership between the Caribbean, its diaspora, and the institutions that profited from its colonisation.

Jamaica has taken the first formal legal step. The rest of the Commonwealth Caribbean will be watching to see what the Palace, and eventually the Privy Council, does with it. So should we all.

AT A GLANCE: THE LONDON PROGRAMME

Delegation led by Olivia Grange MP, Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

Sunday, 6th September Ecumenical Church Service, remembrance, justice and repair. New Park Road Baptist Church, South London.

Monday, 7th September Petition filed with King Charles, requesting that slavery reparations be referred to the Privy Council. Political engagement event, Westminster.

During the visit Meeting with the British Museum on repatriation of cultural artefacts taken from Jamaica. Townhall style events with the Jamaican diaspora.

Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers
 #Reparations #Jamaica #CaribbeanBridges #ReparatoryJustice #Commonwealth #CARICOM

Favorable Views of China: The Leadership and Practice of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy

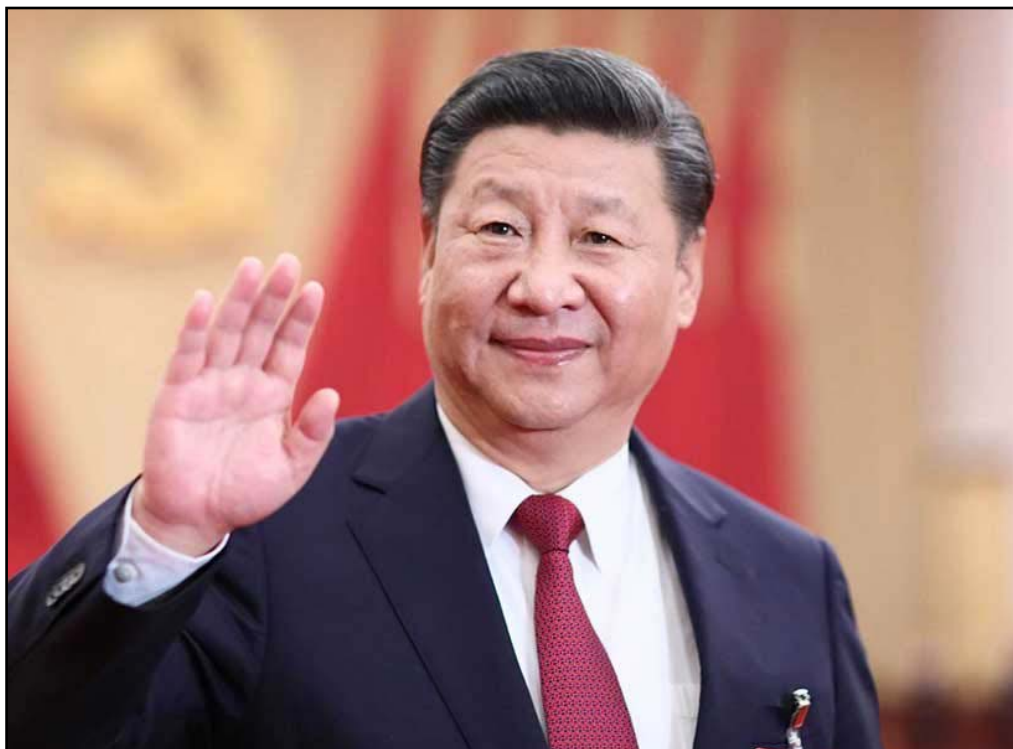
Authored by: Zhang Peng, Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Antigua and Barbuda

Recently, surveys of multiple international polling institutions have

shown an ongoing increase in favorable views of China. According to a poll jointly conducted by German political foundation Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Latin American social sciences journal Nueva Sociedad, and other institutions, 36.1% of the 12,000 respondents in 10 Latin American countries regard China as the best reference for regional states in terms of development, ranking first among major countries around the globe. Similarly, Pew Research Center recorded in July that 36 countries surveyed reflect a more positive attitude toward China, with a median rate of favor as high as 46%.

What boosts the international community's favorability toward China? The primary reason lies in the leadership of H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China and practice of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. Under the scientific guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, China upholds the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, stands at the forefront of championing true multilateralism, and remains committed to being a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of the international order and a provider of public goods, winning ever-wider recognition and support of the international community.

Firstly, the vision of a global community with a shared future has galvanized international consensus. In 2013, bearing in mind the common interests of the Chinese people and people across the world, President Xi proposed to build a global community with a shared future jointly. Rooted in



a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation, this important vision transcends traditional theories of international relations and charts a new paradigm for interactions between countries, winning broad understanding and recognition from the international community. To date, more than 100 countries and international organizations have expressed their support to the vision, and nearly 80 percent of people around the world are in favor. In May 2025, at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum, President Xi announced the launch of five programs for building a China-LAC community with a shared future, namely Solidarity Program, Development Program, Civilization Program, Peace Program and People-to-People Program, receiving positive responses from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Antigua and Barbuda. China's relations with the region have entered a new stage of high-quality development, with exchanges and cooperation across all

areas shifting into "fast lane".

Secondly, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has won international popularity. In 2013, with a vision to advance win-win cooperation and common development between China and the rest of the world, President Xi raised the major initiatives of building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road. Following the trend of economic globalization and focusing on enhancing connectivity, the BRI promotes policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds, injecting fresh impetus into global economic growth. In 2025, China's trade with LAC reached a record high of USD 549 billion, increasing more than fortyfold from USD 12.6 billion in 2000. Over the past decade-plus, over 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations have joined BRI cooperation, mobilizing nearly USD 1 trillion in global investment and creating more than 500,000 jobs in participating countries. It has grown into a "path to development

Feature

and prosperity” that benefits all parties throughout the world.

Thirdly, the four Global Initiatives have been widely welcomed. Since 2021, President Xi has successively put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative. These four Global Initiatives focus on international development cooperation, advocate resolving international disputes through dialogue and consultation, work towards promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and innovate global governance institutions and mechanisms. They have contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to humanity’s pursuit of sustainable development, enduring peace and security, civilization prosperity, and a more just and equitable global governance system. Bringing greater stability and certainty to the turbulent world, the four Global Initiatives stand as a remarkable undertaking in the history of human civilization and have won universal recognition and support from the international community.

More than two millennia ago, Mencius, a Chinese thinker said, “A just cause enjoys abundant support while an unjust one finds little.” From advancing the building of a global community with a shared future, to promoting the Belt and Road Initiative, and putting into practice the four Global Initiatives, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy upholds shared future for mankind and prioritizes well-being of people, demonstrating the responsibility and contribution of a major country in a world of turbulence and transformation, earning widespread acclaim from the international community. This “abundant support for a just cause” is precisely the reason behind the increasing favorability toward China, and represents the shared aspiration of people across the world.



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 thought.

At Good Humans 268 Inc., we believe there is power in
 seeing. There is power in discovery learning, in under-
 standing and questioning what is happening around us. We
 can talk about climate change, recycling and waste every
 day, but sometimes seeing the consequences of our choic-
 es is what finally changes the choices we make.

Because what we throw away today,
 doesn’t magically disappear tomorrow or fade away.

It travels somewhere, it takes up space,
 and eventually our choices stare us directly in the face.

That is why we believe every citizen of Antigua and
 Barbuda should have an opportunity to visit the landfill
 through organised and educational experiences. Imagine
 if landfill visits became part of school field trips. We teach
 children about climate change, pollution and protecting
 the environment, but what if we allowed them to discover
 what those lessons actually mean?

Let them see the plastic and ask, “Why is that there?”
 Let them see discarded items and learn why we should
 care.

Let them question the batteries, bottles and food,
 and ask whether throwing everything together is really
 what we should do.

Discovery creates questions, and questions create conver-
 sation. Conversation can create understanding, and under-
 standing can influence behaviour. Waste education should



therefore extend beyond the classroom and become part of
 how we operate as a country.

If we train people to handle the food that we eat,
 shouldn’t responsible waste management form part of
 Food Handler’s Certification? Restaurants, bars, super-
 markets and food vendors generate waste every day. If
 we teach people how to safely prepare the meal, why not
 teach them how to responsibly manage what remains after
 the meal?

From the food on the plate to the bottle in hand,
 every piece of waste eventually has somewhere to land.

So if we teach preparation from beginning to end,
 shouldn’t waste management become part of the trend?

The same principle should apply when registering a
 business. What waste will this business generate? Where
 will it go? What can be separated? What can be recycled?

What could be composted? What responsibility should
 come with opening our doors and conducting business in
 our communities?

And when new employees arrive, waste education should
 be part of staff training. We teach customer service, work-
 place policies, uniforms and safety. Why not spend 30

Feature



minutes teaching employees about the waste their workplace generates?

Thirty minutes to explain what belongs where.

Thirty minutes to teach why we should care.

Thirty minutes multiplied by thousands each year, could help make environmental responsibility increasingly clear.

Being climate conscious cannot simply mean talking about climate change when hurricanes come, when temperatures rise or when another international environmental day appears on the calendar. Climate consciousness is also about our everyday decisions. It is the bottle we purchase, the food we waste, the battery we discard and the garbage bag we place outside.

It is understanding that there is no magical “away.”

At Good Humans 268 Inc., we continue using our social media platforms to educate our communities about waste management, recycling, common recycling myths and the realities of where our waste goes. We encourage schools, businesses, organisations and individuals to check out our social media content, ask questions and continue learning.

Because waste is not somebody else’s responsibility.

The waste from our school, our business, our home, eventually finds somewhere else to roam.

And when thousands of choices arrive in one place, we finally see the environmental footprint we create.

So perhaps every citizen should visit the landfill.

Perhaps every student should see where our garbage goes. Perhaps every business should understand its waste. Perhaps every employee should receive basic waste education. Perhaps seeing the problem firsthand could help us become more conscious of the solution.

Because when we understand that “away” is somewhere we all share, we may think twice about what we put there.

And if we want a cleaner Antigua and Barbuda tomorrow, the responsibility cannot always be something we borrow.

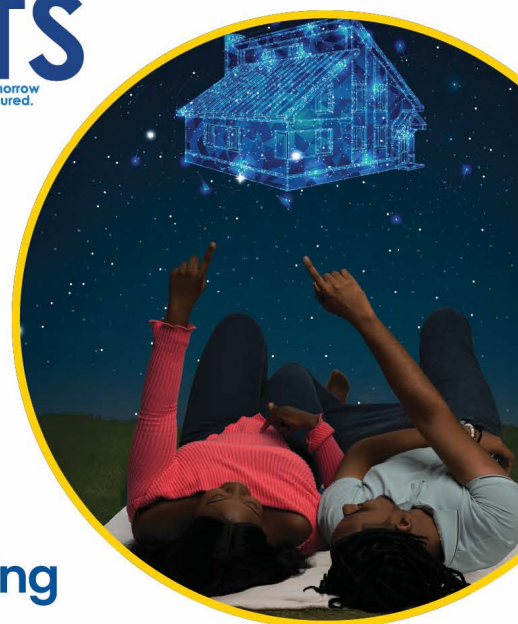


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- Strong mechanical, technical, diagnostic and troubleshooting skills.
- Excellent problem-solving, attention to detail and time-management skills.
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RE: Auto Mechanic

The Human Resources Manager - Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Drive, PO BOX 416
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OR email - hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Thursday 3rd September, 2026

**** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged ****

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Regional News



Judith Green appointed as World Bank Group country manager for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean

The World Bank Group on Tuesday announced the appointment of Jamaican-born Judith Green as country manager for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean States, effective September 1, this year.

Green, who will be based in Barbados, will represent the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

The Washington-based financial institution said that she will also be working with governments and the private sector to advance job creation and sustainable development across the sub-region.

It said Green brings extensive World Bank Group experience to the position. Most recently, she served concurrently as World Bank Group country manager for Malaysia and IFC Country manager for Papua New Guinea, the Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand where she mobilised private sector investment and managed large advisory services programmes.

“In these roles, she worked closely with the public and private sector to support public sector reforms and increase private sector investment in both Malaysia and the Pacific region while managing large advisory services programmes,” the World Bank Group added.

Green also brings a rare combination of multilateral and government experience. Between 2013 and 2016, while on external service leave from IFC, she led the Government of Jamaica’s Coordi-



nation and Implementation Unit,

which was responsible for overseeing the successful implementation of Jamaica’s 2013 four-year Extended Fund Facility with the International Monetary Fund — a landmark economic reform programme for the country.

Before joining the World Bank Group, Green had a distinguished career in finance, working at several financial institutions with a focus on corporate finance and global loan capital markets, the World Bank said. (CMC)



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Amnesty International calls for an end to ‘murderous’ air strikes in Caribbean Sea



The international human rights group Amnesty International is calling for an end to the United States military’s “deadly, ongoing and illegal campaign” of air strikes against suspected drug vessels in the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

It is calling on the US Congress to stop the “murderous year-long campaign”.

“For one year, the US military has carried out a campaign of extrajudicial killings at sea that has left more than 225 people dead, with the most recent four deaths just six days ago,” said Amnesty International USA’s National Director for Government Relations, Amanda Klasing.

“For just as long, we have called on Congress to take meaningful action to stop these killings, which are illegal under both international and US law,” she said, adding, “US authorities have yet to offer a shred of evidence to support their claims against the people they have killed. They have not even named the dead.”

The human rights official said that even if the victims were transiting narcotics as the administration alleges, international law absolutely

prohibits summary killings of criminal suspects.

“Unfortunately, with a few notable exceptions, lawmakers have done little to try to halt this horrific campaign of murder at sea. And let us be clear: extrajudicial killings are a form of murder. How many more people will die at sea from this administration’s illegal actions before Congress does its job?” she said.

Klasing said Amnesty International looks forward to the day, “when the architects and perpetrators of this campaign of extrajudicial killings are investigated and face justice, including the people who ordered these operations: President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth”.

Klasing said until then Amnesty International will continue pushing the US Congress “to do its job to stop this ongoing policy of murder”, urging US citizens to call their congressional representatives and do the same.

But she said the blame does not solely rest on US authorities, urging any authorities in the region who have aided these killings with equipment or intelligence to stop collaborating in “this illegal airstrike cam-

paign and likewise face justice”.

Klasing noted that the US air strike campaign in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific began on September 2, 2025, and that, since then, the Trump administration officials have announced 227 total deaths.

Last week, the US military said it attacked a boat suspected of smuggling drugs in the Caribbean Sea, killing four people.

US lawmakers have raised alarm about President Trump’s continued attack on suspected drug vessels in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean after a lull of a few months.

Without citing evidence, President Trump has claimed that the military strikes have reduced the flow of drugs into the US by 98 per cent.

But Texas Democratic congressman Joaquin Castro, who has dispatched letters to Trump administration officials protesting the military strikes, described the campaign as “illegal and ineffective”.

He said the strikes have “violated US laws, failed to meaningfully stop drug trafficking and legally imperilled US service members ordered to conduct these strikes”. (CMC)

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Regional News

Bahamas domestic economy projected to expand at a steady pace this year

The Central Bank of The Bahamas (CBB) says the domestic economy is projected to expand at a steady pace in 2026, relative to last year, as key indicators move closer to their medium-term growth potential.

It said tourism, a primary driver of economic growth, is expected to remain robust, supported by stronger high-value added stopover performance and healthy growth in the cruise sector. In addition, new and ongoing investment projects are anticipated to provide further impetus to construction activity and employment.

In its Monthly Economic and Financial Developments July 2026, the CBB said that inflationary pressures and heightened geopolitical risks have become more prominent, particularly due to higher fuel and import costs.

“From a fiscal perspective, the government’s net financing gap is expected to narrow as the domestic economy expands. Improvements in fiscal performance remain linked to increases in tourism-related taxable activities and to the anticipated minimum corporate tax.

“Moreover, financing requirements are anticipated to be met through a combination of domestic and external borrowing, with domestic sources accounting for the larger share. Within the monetary sector, banking sector liquidity is projected to remain elevated, although continued growth in private sector credit could result in a modest reduction.”

The CBB said that external reserves are forecasted to remain broadly in line with 2025 levels, remaining well above international benchmarks and providing sufficient support for the Bahamian dollar currency peg.

It said despite a favourable outlook, downside risks persist amid uncertain externalities. In particular, stopover demand from the United States remains vulnerable to ongoing tensions in Eastern Europe, the escalated conflict in the Middle East, and continued



global tariff policy uncertainty.

“Moreover, elevated energy prices could further weigh on near-term travel demand, drive cost-push inflation, increase financing costs for foreign direct investment, and delay reductions in the government’s interest costs,” the CBB noted.

It said during the month of July, the domestic economy expanded at a stable pace, vis-à-vis the corresponding 2025 period and that while key indicators continued to trend towards their medium-term potential, tourism output gains strengthened, as earnings growth indicators for the high value-added stopover segment improved, while cruise inflows remained robust.

Meanwhile, monetary developments in the review month revealed a reduction in banking sector liquidity, as the growth in domestic credit outpaced the buildup in the Bahamian dollar deposit base. Similarly, external reserves declined in July, on account of foreign currency outflows through both the private and public sectors.

The CBB said that in the tourism sector, initial data suggests that tourism output growth formed during the review month, relative to the same month in the previous year, undergirded by increased travel demand from key source markets.

It said underlying this outturn, was an estimated rebound in high-value stopover volumes, notwithstanding accommodation capacity constraints, and ongoing gains in the cruise sector.

The most recent data provided by the Nassau Airport Development Company Limited (NAD) showed that in July, total departures rebounded by 7.1 per cent to 180,831, compared to the same period in the previous year.

In particular, non-US international departures grew by 24.3 per cent to 23,362. Further, US departures rose by five per cent to 157,469. On a year-to-date basis, total outbound traffic mover higher by 5.4 per cent to 1.1 million. Specifically, non-US traffic advanced by 33.7 per cent to 0.2 million, while US departures recovered by 0.8 per cent to 0.9 million.

In the short-term rental market, AirDNA data indicated that total room nights sold increased by 10.5 per cent to 63,399 in July, vis-à-vis the same 2025 period. Further, the average daily room rate (ADR) for hotel comparable listings moved higher by 7.7 per cent to US\$177.49, relative to a year earlier. Likewise, the average daily room rate for entire place listings firmed by 5.3 per cent to US\$749.33, from the preceding year.

During the review month, The Ba-

hamas external reserves decreased by US\$67.7 million to US\$3,227.9 million, extending the US\$15.7 million reduction in the comparable 2025 period. Contributing, the central bank's net sale to the public sector almost doubled to US\$53.2 million from US\$27.1 million in the prior year.

In addition, the bank's net foreign currency transactions with commercial banks switched to a net outflow of US\$15.3 million, from a net inflow of US\$13.7 million in the preceding year. In turn, commercial banks recorded a net sale of US\$42.3 million to customers, vis-à-vis a net purchase

of US\$36.3 million last year

During the month of July, domestic foreign currency credit grew further by US\$10.3 million vis-à-vis a US\$7.6 million rise in the prior year. Reflective of this outturn, the rise in net claims on the government approximately doubled to US\$8.6 million.

However, the CBB said private sector credit growth narrowed to \$1.7 million from \$2.8 million last year. Contributing, mortgages rebounded by US\$2.4 million, from a US\$0.5 million decline last year; whereas commercial loans fell by US\$0.7 million, following a US\$3.3 million gain in 2025. Mean-

while, credit to public corporations remained unchanged.

The CBB said that given the current outlook, the central bank will retain its accommodative policy stance toward private sector credit, while implementing measures to ensure a positive outcome for external reserves and financial stability.

"Through its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the bank will continue to monitor developments within the foreign exchange market and, where necessary, implement appropriate measures to ensure the stability of foreign reserves," it added. (CMC)

Government allocates \$500 million for drought relief ahead of school reopening



The Government has approved an additional \$500 million to strengthen the national response to Jamaica's worsening drought and extreme heat, with schools set to reopen next week.

Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change Matthew Samuda says \$150 million will be allocated to the National Water Commission (NWC) to provide water trucks to schools, health centres, hospitals and other critical facilities, including police stations, particularly those serving as places of detention.

Another \$200 million will be chan-

nelled through Members of Parliament to provide assistance in their constituencies, while \$150 million will be distributed among municipalities to help communities outside the NWC's service network.

Samuda says the allocation was approved by Cabinet on Monday as the country continues to experience reduced rainfall and severe heat linked to the ongoing El Niño conditions.

"Because the forecast has said we're unlikely to see a major change in our current rainfall levels until early next year, we've made this provision to en-

sure that we're able to respond to those most in need, and to critical infrastructure needs and, of course, support back-to-school as best as possible," he said while examining the progress of the multi-billion-dollar pipe-laying and rehabilitation Munroe Wellington Pipeline Project on Old Hope Road, St Andrew on Tuesday.

He says while the Government hopes weather conditions will improve, forecasts suggest that significant improvement in rainfall is unlikely until early next year.

Samuda says the Government has already spent about \$86 million on water trucking since the start of the drought, while more than \$15 billion is being spent this year on infrastructure works to upgrade the country's water distribution system.

He says the drought is affecting social stability, economic activity and the daily lives of Jamaicans, but noted that there is growing public awareness of the need to conserve water.

Samuda says compliance with the Government's water restrictions has generally improved, with major water storage facilities showing a stabilisation and slower rate of decline. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Woman charged with juror intimidation in Lindsay Clancy trial



A woman, who was arrested for taking photos of jury members outside the courthouse in the Lindsay Clancy trial, has been charged with aggravated intimidation of a juror.

Dawn Light, 56, is accused of sitting in a restricted area outside the Plymouth courthouse and photographing jurors as they exited the building on Tuesday. Her lawyer called it a misunderstanding as she pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Lindsay Clancy, 36, is charged with the murders of her three children. The livestreamed trial has captured national and international media attention, and drawn strong, often deeply divided reactions from audiences.

The jury has been deliberating on the case since Thursday.

During Light's appearance in the court on Wednesday, Massachusetts lawyers said the sanctity of the judicial system was at risk because of her actions.

Light, a registered nurse with no

prior criminal record, was ordered to stay away from the courthouse grounds and also from those associated with the Clancy trial. She was also ordered not to produce or disseminate photos that could have been preserved on iCloud.

Prosecutors requested a \$50,000 (£37,000) cash bail, which was denied by the judge.

Jurors return in Lindsay Clancy trial after judge asks them to break deadlock

"This is a complete misunderstanding, Your Honour. My client was trying to get a picture of Ms Clancy," Light's attorney Jennifer White said in court.

After the arraignment, a swarm of reporters gathered around Light. When one asked, "Why did you want to see Lindsay [Clancy]", Light replied, "Why not?"

Authorities said they found Light in a restricted area in her parked car on Tuesday. When asked if she was taking videos, she said she was not and

explained that she was waiting for Clancy.

Prosecutors alleged that when they went through Light's deleted folder on her phone, they found photos of jurors exiting the courthouse, and Light was then taken into custody.

Prosecutors said the courthouse has taken extensive measures to protect the trial that has created a spectacle in the coastal Massachusetts town. They described Light's conduct as a serious matter.

Judge William Sullivan, who is overseeing the Clancy trial, has an order specifically prohibiting the photographing or filming of jurors.

There are more than 200 reporters covering the case, and a group of women supporters - ebbing and flowing in size - have been coming to the courthouse over the past few weeks.

The case has also drawn wide attention on social media, stoking broader debates around mental health, postpartum psychosis, and the limits of criminal responsibility.

The Plymouth, Massachusetts, jury has been deliberating since Thursday over whether Clancy is criminally responsible for killing her children.

Despite the enormous media footprint, jurors deliberating the case are barred from watching or reading coverage of the trial. They are tasked with agreeing on a verdict solely on the evidence and testimony shown in court. (BBC)

Uber laying off 'about 10%' of workforce worldwide

Ride-hailing giant Uber will be laying off around 10 per cent of its staff as part of "significant organisational changes," CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said in a message to employees released on Wednesday.

"Today, we're making a number of significant organisational changes across Uber," Khosrowshahi said. "As a result, we will be reducing the size of our team by about 10 per cent."

Uber has a total of roughly 34,000 employees with operations in more than 70 countries, according to a recent SEC filing.

The company said the layoffs were aimed at making the platform "simpler and faster" and at reducing coordination delays in what has become a sprawling operation.

"A leaner organisation will mean clearer ownership, faster decisions, and more time spent building rather than coordinating," the message said.

Founded in 2009, Uber remade the urban transportation sector by disrupting markets dominated by taxi and private car companies, allowing people to use their own vehicles to give others rides.

The company has since expanded massively, including into the delivery sector, particularly for food and retail items. It also offers courier services over short distances.

Uber drivers are compensated at varying rates in different countries, and many have complained of not receiving adequate compensation for their work and the use of their vehicles.

Almost none of Uber's drivers are



classified as full-time employees, with most treated as independent contractors, depending on local laws.

Khosrowshahi's message focused on how the changes were aimed at operational efficiencies, but the company has also shut down services entirely in some countries.

On Wednesday, Uber said it was shutting down its business in Nigeria and Uganda, after leaving Tanzania earlier this year.

In a note, Wedbush Securities said it expected Uber to save around \$1.75 billion with the layoffs, which it would invest into growth areas.

"Uber is aiming to create a leaner organisation with fewer managerial layers and move faster in investing into growth," Wedbush said.

It said the managerial changes were aimed at cutting smaller teams within Uber and reducing employees sitting more than seven layers from the CEO.

One key area of reorganisation was Uber's delivery business, which Khosrowshahi said would see restaurant, retail and direct delivery units consolidated into teams disaggregated at the global, regional and country level.

He also said that the company would be concentrating jobs in key hubs, with global teams mainly in New York and San Francisco.

His note said that only around one per cent of employees would be allowed to work remotely going forward.

US-listed shares of Uber were up over 2.5 per cent in midday trading. (Jamaica Observer)



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Netherlands moves billions in gold to London in 'crisis preparedness' move



The Dutch central bank (DNB) has confirmed that billions of dollars in gold has been taken out of north America and relocated to London, citing “increasing geopolitical unrest”.

DNB said on Wednesday that 86 tonnes of gold had been removed from the US and Canada in a complex operation that took several months. It is now being held by the Bank of England, where the precious metal can be traded more easily “in a crisis situation”.

Bank president Olaf Sleijpen said the move was “necessary to strengthen our resilience and preparedness”.

The decision comes amid an ongoing trade dispute between the US and Canada, with both countries announcing

fresh tariffs on each other after failed trade talks.

DNB said the transfer, which took place between March and August, saw 27 tonnes of gold bars moved from New York and Ottawa to Zeist in the Netherlands.

A similar quantity and quality was then moved to London, with no need to melt the bars down.

Exactly how so much gold was transported across the Atlantic Ocean has not been revealed.

The rest of the transfer was carried out by selling the gold in New York and repurchasing it in London, the bank said.

“Combining the processes of buying

and selling and physical transport has allowed DNB to spread the risks associated with such a complex physical gold relocation,” the statement said.

DNB did not confirm what it was referring to with its mention of “geopolitical unrest” but the US economy remains in an uncertain position due to the country’s ongoing war with Iran, which has impacted global trade.

Canada, meanwhile, has been hit hard by US tariffs on its key sectors of steel, aluminium, lumber and automobiles as well as an additional 50% levy on about C\$28bn (\$20bn; £15bn) of Canadian goods announced in August.

DNB said that gold that is held with the Bank of England “is regarded as the world’s most easily tradable gold,” and therefore more readily available in a crisis than if it was still in the US or Canada.

Prior to Wednesday’s announcement, the DNB held 31.3% of its gold in New York and 19.7% in Ottawa. This has now fallen to 18.5% in both countries.

The total Dutch gold stock was 612.4 tonnes at the end of 2025 and has been valued at €72.2 billion, DNB said.

The bank’s share of gold in London has increased from 18.1% to 32.1% after the move, while it still holds 30.8% of its reserves in the Netherlands. (BBC)



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Patriots rally to beat Tridents in high-scoring CPL match



The St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots produced a batting performance for the ages, chasing down 218 to defeat the Barbados Tridents by six wickets in a pulsating and high-scoring Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) clash at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Tuesday night.

Quinton de Kock slammed a brilliant century with a knock of 106 off 57 balls, fellow opener Zachary Carter hit 57 off 36 balls, and Sherfane Rutherford scored 26 off 16 balls to guide the Barbados Trident to 217 for four off their 20 overs after being sent into bat. Fast bowler Naseem Shah captured two for 43.

Johnson Charles, with 78 off 45 balls; Dasun Shanaka, with 36 off 22 balls; and Andre Fletcher, who struck 22 not out off eight balls, were the standouts for the Patriots to achieve victory at 220 for four in 19.5 overs.

They were backed up superbly by their teammates in a battle between two sides at the bottom of the table. Opener Kyle Mayers cracked 29 off 27 balls, Wanindu Hasaranga hit 18 not out off four balls, and Patriots captain Jason Holder also made 18 off 11 balls. Seamer Daniel Sams picked up two for 40.

For the Tridents, Quinton de Kock's

brilliant hundred ultimately went in vain. Sent in to bat, the Tridents got off to a rocky start when Brandon King departed for two after just eight balls. That setback did little to slow the visitors, however, as Zachary Carter and de Kock took charge during the Power Play.

Carter was particularly destructive, regularly finding the middle of the bat and using his powerful frame to launch the ball to all parts of the ground. Carter hit seven sixes and a four, while de Kock matched his scoring rate through a more classical approach, finding gaps with remarkable consistency.

The pair put on a 116-run partnership for the second wicket before Carter was dismissed. During that period, the Patriots were their own worst enemies, putting down three routine catches and struggling to find an answer to the Tridents' assault.

The Tridents maintained a scoring rate of around nine to 10 an over throughout the innings, with de Kock continuing his onslaught alongside Sherfane Rutherford.

De Kock reached his century from just 54 balls, becoming the fourth player to score a hundred in the CPL this season. Having earlier been among those to spill

a chance, Navin Bidaisee redeemed himself spectacularly, producing a stunning running catch to finally end de Kock's innings in which he struck 11 fours and six sixes.

Tridents' captain Chris Green, who made 18 not out off seven balls, and Rivaldo Clarke (0 not out) saw out the innings.

The Patriots knew they needed a flying start in the chase, and Charles delivered. The opener attacked from the outset, finding his rhythm during the Power Play. Then came a bizarre moment when Charles lofted a full toss towards deep midwicket and was caught.

The Patriots bench was furious that a no ball wasn't given as Charles headed off. The third umpire intervened and overturned the decision, sending Charles back to the crease. To make matters worse for the Tridents, Charles promptly smashed the resulting free hit for six.

Charles and Kyle Mayers continued to keep pace with the required rate, but the Tridents eventually got a breakthrough through a slice of fortune. Rutherford deflected Charles' straight drive onto the stumps, leaving Mayers stranded and run out.

The Tridents then appeared to take another major step towards victory when Charles, who hammered seven sixes and six fours, was finally dismissed by Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

But the Patriots refused to buckle. Instead, they dug deep and ensured they did not surrender cheap wickets. Dasun Shanaka, Jason Holder, Fletcher, and Hasaranga all made valuable contributions to keep the chase alive and propel the Patriots towards what became the fourth-highest successful run chase in CPL history.

The Patriots will face the St. Lucia Kings in their final home match at Warner Park on Thursday, while the Tridents return to Barbados to begin their own run of home matches, starting on Saturday against defending champions Trinbago Knight Riders at the Kensington Oval.

TTCB pledges more support for under-19 girls

President of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB) Azim Bassarath said it will not put women's cricket in the back-burner and pledged his organisation's continued support to the women's programme on Tuesday.

Bassarath was speaking at a celebration ceremony for the victorious T&T Under-19 team following last month's Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Women's Under-19 tournament in Antigua.

T&T, led by series MVP Samara Ramnath, played unbeaten to take the title for the first time since 2023.

The members of the squad and the technical/management staff headed by coach Stephanie Power were honoured with commemorative plaques at the TTCB Headquarters in Balmain, Couva, on Tuesday.

And as part of the TTCB's pledged further support to the Trinidad and Tobago Women's Cricket Association, Bassarath said the ground located just outside the National Cricket Centre would be developed for the sole use of women's cricket.

"I just want to advise that the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board will continue to maintain the facility there," he said.

"We are going to work to make sure that before you all leave for the next tournament in 2027, that there will be a structure on that site to accommodate the players and spectators... We are going to work to take across some of the bleachers we have on this side across there, put a covering on it and do some work to make sure that you are comfortable and that you are safe."

The T&T squad had used the prepared open field in training ahead of



Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board president Azim Bassarath, centre, stands with the trophy and members of the T&T Under-19 women's cricket team at a ceremony on Tuesday, September 1, to commemorate their victory in the West Indies Rising Stars tournament last month in Antigua.

the Antigua assignment. Bassarath, also vice-president of CWI, said the goal was also to help other regional territories develop the women's game.

"We must be able to match England, Australia, India and so on, so we are going to work with other territorial boards," he said.

And Bassarath also praised the discipline the T&T team showed during the tournament and shared some of the good feedback he received.

"On the day of the final the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board held their third quarterly meeting for 2025-2026, and while I was driving home after the meeting, I saw an Antiguan number calling me. It was girls from the office at Cricket West Indies who were very happy for you all and also spoke about the high

level of cricket that you played.

"They were very impressed, and then one of them handed the phone to the former president of Cricket West Indies, Mr. Ricky Skerritt, and he paid glowing tribute to this team, to the management of the team, the way you carried about yourself while on the field also and during the course (of the tournament).

And Bassarath urged the players to continue being good examples.

"Although you are under 19, there are players, there are people who are watching you and who are trying to emulate you, so I expect that you will go about yourselves in a very dignified manner," he said.

"You must be the ones setting the example because other younger cricketers who are 12, 13 years; they are watching you."

Pegula and Medvedev score early wins at US Open



Jessica Pegula of the United States gestures after she won against Sofia Kenin of the United States during the second round of the US Open tennis championships in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026. (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Third-ranked Jessica Pegula breezed into the third round of the U.S. Open on Wednesday with a decisive victory over Sofia Kenin, and Alex Michelsen defeated Brandon Nakashima on a day when nine American men were in action.

No. 7 seed Daniil Medvedev was among other early winners, with a straight-set victory over Sebastian Gorzny.

It was a packed day as the tournament caught up from Tuesday's rain delays, with 25 singles matches being played on the men's side alone.

Pegula had an easy time with her second-round match, needing only 56 minutes to defeat Kenin — the 2020 Australian Open champion — 6-3, 6-1. Kenin had advanced to the second round by beating Venus Williams.

Meanwhile, Alexander Zverev rallied just in time to avoid becoming the first men's No. 1 seed to lose in the first round of a Grand Slam tournament since 2003, edging Lorenzo Sonego 6-4, 3-6, 6-7 (7), 7-5, 6-4 in a US Open match that ended Wednesday morning.

Zverev couldn't cash in on repeated chances to break Sonego's serve for much of the night and was in danger of becoming the first top-seeded man to fall in his first match in a major since Ivo Karlovic beat Lleyton Hewitt at Wimbledon in 2003.

It hasn't happened at the US Open since Stefan Edberg lost to Alexander Volkov in 1990. Zverev finally broke through against Sonego's serve late to pull out the match in four hours and 52 minutes.

"Nearly five hours for a first round, I think this is the longest first-round

match I've ever played in my life," Zverev said.

"So, credit to him. He played amazing tennis today, would have beaten a lot of players for sure, but I'm happy to be through."

Zverev advanced to face Quentin Halys in the second round, and the 2020 US Open runner-up wasn't disappointed that he needed to work so hard to get there.

"Actually, I'm happy that I won this kind of battle because this exactly the match that I needed," he said.

"I struggled the last two tournaments, I didn't play well and sometimes good things happen after you fight through one of these matches. So I'm hoping that will be the case for me at this tournament."

US women look to jell quickly at FIBA World Cup in Berlin



Breanna Stewart (10) and Chelsea Gray (8) of United States attend a training session ahead of the match between China and United States during the Women's Basketball World Cup in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026. (AP)

BERLIN (AP) — The United States of America (USA) women's national team is short on practice time heading into a major competition where anything less than winning a gold medal is considered a failure.

The Americans will have to jell quickly if they hope to win a fifth straight FIBA women's World Cup. The tournament begins Friday, when the US plays China in one of eight games in Berlin.

The Americans already have had a couple of practices in Berlin since their staggered arrivals, marking the first time that the 12 players on the squad were together as a team.

The USA is working in a bunch of young, new players like Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese, and Paige Bueckers, with half the roster making its World Cup debut. Having little practice time is nothing new to the Americans.

"It's good to get the group together. It's a new group. The beneficial thing about us is that even though we hav-

en't practiced with each other much, but we know our games really well because we scout each other every single day (in the WNBA)," veteran guard Chelsea Gray said.

"So we know people's strengths. I think basketball players, we compartmentalize better than anyone. So this is no different, we're going to have to learn on the fly."

They'll have less time to get ready because this World Cup format is different from the 2022 one.

With 16 teams competing in Germany instead of the 12 they had four years ago, each country will play only three games in the preliminary round, down from five in Australia.

That gives the USA fewer games to figure out rotations and work on its on-court chemistry, but it does give them more rest time.

"It's just more of being really focused and locked in when we do have our time together, and we know that there's a lot of information to install,"

coach Kara Lawson said.

"I don't think it's changed the way I would normally coach. It's just being very direct with what we want done, and they were great today in practice at picking up a lot in a short period of time."

If the Americans do win their group, which also includes China, the Czech Republic and Italy, they'll have two days off before the quarterfinals. Gray doesn't mind having fewer games.

"It's less on our bodies honestly, especially with the pause in the WNBA season," the 33-year-old Gray said. "I like a little bit of a break."

Usually, the World Cup begins right after the WNBA season finishes. This time, the league is pausing for two weeks because of the international competition.

"It's definitely different," said Breanna Stewart, who has helped the USA win the last three World Cup gold medals.

Antoine to conduct FIFA training ahead of U-20 Women's World Cup

Head of Refereeing for the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA), Kelesha Antoine, is off to Poland, where she will serve as a FIFA Referee Fitness Instructor at the FIFA Women's Under-20 World Cup from September 5 to 27.

Antoine is headed to Poland straight from the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Boys Challenge Series in the Dominican Republic, where she was wearing yet another hat, supporting the competition as an administrator and instructor for the CFU's referee development programme.

A member of both the **Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF)** and CFU Referee Committees, Antoine continues to invest in the development of refereeing across our region while bringing her expertise to the global stage.

Antoine is among several FIFA referee instructors who are assigned internally to oversee the **68 match officials**, comprising 18 referees, 36 assistant referees, and 14 video match officials for the Under-20 Women's World Cup in Poland.

Following a meticulous and comprehensive selection process, FIFA announced the 68 match officials who will oversee matches at the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup.

The FIFA referee fitness and technical instructors will evaluate and oversee the physical readiness of appointed match officials ahead of and during the tournament.

These appointments allow the



Kelesha Antoine

match official to participate in the biggest event in international women's football. The selections for the Women's Under-20 World Cup also form part of FIFA's ongoing support programme for the development of match officials.

Through the implementation of the FIFA Referee Education & Development Programme, both match officials and referee instructors benefit from enhanced online learning tools, professionally curated video materials, and frequent workshops at confederation, regional, and member association levels to ensure that officiating the game remains in step with player development initiatives.

Appointed match officials must successfully pass mandatory physical and fitness assessments administered by official FIFA fitness instructors prior to the start of the competition.

Once gathered at the tournament host locations, referees participate in ongoing practical, theoretical, and recovery sessions monitored by FIFA technical and fitness staff to maintain peak performance levels throughout the September 5 to 27 event.

The structural preparation of the referees is overseen by the executive leadership of the **FIFA Referees Committee**, including Chairman of the FIFA Referees Committee Pierluigi Collina, who shapes the overall tournament briefing guidelines.

FIFA Director of Refereeing Massimo Busacca directs the practical training seminars on-site. The primary focus of these instructors in Poland is a crucial stepping stone to align training standards ahead of the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil.

During these youth tournaments, match officials will gain valuable experience on the international stage. FIFA has worked closely with the confederations and member associations throughout the process, with a focus on building and developing officiating trios together.

As a result, some highly experienced officials may not have been selected for these youth tournaments but remain part of the broader preparations for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil.