

Immigration Officers Urged To 'Go Beyond the Badge'

Story on page 2



**Focus moves on Student athletes as Ministry
hosts second annual Sports-School seminar**

Immigration Officers Urged To 'Go Beyond the Badge'



Several immigration officers were singled out for outstanding work and for dedication to duty at an Awards Ceremony held at the department's headquarters on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway on Thursday.

The ceremony was held under the theme; Recognition Beyond the Badge as both the Minister with Portfolio responsibility for Immigration, E.P Chet Greene and Chief Immigration Officer,

Katrina Yearwood made it central to their remarks before scores of immigration officers and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration.

"Let us be clear: The Immigration badge is a profound symbol. It represents responsibility, service and public trust. But true excellence in immigration service is not defined by the metal on a uniform. It is defined by

the character, competence and compassion of the people who wear it. To-day, it is about looking past the badge to recognize the people behind it; you the officers and staff whose daily commitment keeps this department functioning effectively," Minister Greene remarked.

The minister noted that several years had elapsed since there was an awards ceremony and he vowed to ensure that



this does not happen in the future, at least not under his watch.

“Staff appreciation is not merely a ceremonial gesture. It is a strategic imperative. It is the foundation of a motivated, committed and high-performing organization. We must never forget that people perform at their best when they know their dedication is seen and valued,” he observed.

CIO Yearwood also underscored the value of recognizing those officers who willingly accept requests to work extra hours or to perform duties beyond their regular duties.

Additionally, she too acknowledged that while arrangements were being made to have a staff award ceremony back in 2023, that event never mate-

rialized. Thursday’s ceremony was a dual exercise of honouring staff for outstanding work performed in 2023 and those who similarly performed well in 2026.

During the ceremony, Minister Greene also announced a number of promotions with the most prominent announcement being the appointment of Maxine Lewis as the second Deputy Chief Immigration Officer.

Former Deputy Chief, Wesley Simon, has been brought out of retirement to service as Special Consultant responsible for Training.

Other notable appointments: Eustace Newton is now Officer-In-Charge, a position just below Deputy Chief Immigration Officer, while the new Sta-

tion Chiefs are Juliana Browne and Shawnita Nedd.

Senior Supervisory Level appointments are; Stacey Bascus, Juliet Roach, Alisha Henry, Hanson Buckley and Clarence Thomas. Junior Supervisory Level are Coretta Messiah-Browne, Anika Ambrose and Louvancia Kirwan.

Sayhen Smith, Jahlyn Turner, Urika France, Gleneisha Parillon, Nicaury Lewis, Joy-Ann Scott, Jeanelle Andre, Dian Gomes-Skepple, Sonia Quinland, Roland Samuel, Darvelle Meade, Grasha Abraham, Lakeisha Titus, Melville Greene and Karesha Parker were promotion from Grade 5 to Grade 4 (in this case the lower number is the higher grade).

Focus moves on Student athletes as Ministry hosts second annual Sports-School seminar



By Carlena Knight-Humphreys

Dozens of school principals from the primary and secondary schools across the island gathered at the Eustace Hill Campus on Wednesday for the 2nd annual Sports-School collaboration meeting.

Under the campaign 'We Choose Sports' the meeting serves an avenue where the Ministry of Sports and principals have a closer and more direct line to discuss plans and initiatives for the various school sports creating a better relationship between the two.

These discussions aid in omitting clashes with the academic curricu-

lum, bring more interest in the various sporting disciplines and cultural games and strengthen the understanding of the importance of supporting student athletes.

School sports coordinators were also present and made presentations for their various disciplines.

Alongside those presentations, Dr. Collin Greene, Commission of Sports, spoke with the principals about the synergy between sports and education and emphasized the role that everyone must play in ensuring students athletes are successful, not just on the court but in everyday life.

He also called for the provisions to be made in the educational system for student athletes.

According to Greene, in other countries student athletes are given support regarding their classes as their schedules are more stringent than the normal student.

He mentioned that even in Antigua and Barbuda provisions are made for students who are special needs but not gifted students.

This is an area he says must be looked at and revised if we want our student athletes to become the best versions of themselves.

CALL FOR INVESTMENT-READY PROJECTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH BUSINESS FORUM (CBF) 2026 POWER PITCH

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda – As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) is inviting Antiguan and Barbudans with investment-ready business ventures and development projects to apply for participation in the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) 2026 Power Pitch.

The Commonwealth Business Forum is one of the flagship events of CHOGM and is expected to attract local, regional and international investors, business leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and development partners from across the Commonwealth. Under the theme “Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth,” the CBF 2026 Power Pitch will provide selected participants with a unique opportunity to present their projects directly to potential investors and strategic partners.

The initiative aims to identify and showcase high-potential projects that can attract investment capital, forge strategic partnerships, create employment opportunities, and contribute to the economic development of Antigua and Barbuda. Participation in the CBF 2026 Power Pitch offers far more than an opportunity to present a business idea, selected applicants will gain valuable exposure to local, regional and international



investors, financiers, business leaders and strategic partners, creating opportunities to secure investment, establish commercial partnerships and access new markets. Participants will also benefit from enhanced visibility and targeted preparation to strengthen their investment propositions and presentation skills. Through this initiative, promising ventures will not only be showcased to an influential audience but will also be positioned to build the relationships and attract the support necessary for long-term growth, expansion and success.

Who Can Apply?

Applications are open to:

- ▶ Antiguan and Barbudan

- citizens and residents
- ▶ Aspiring entrepreneurs seeking investment funding
- ▶ Existing businesses with expansion-ready projects
- ▶ Project developers seeking strategic partnerships and investment

What Must Be Submitted?

Interested applicants must submit:

- ▶ A detailed Business Plan
- ▶ Financial Projections and Forecasts
- ▶ An Investor Pitch Deck
- ▶ Any additional supporting documentation relevant to the project

vant to the project

How to Apply?

Applications should be submitted electronically to:

Email: investmentfacilitation@ab.gov.ag

Applicants should ensure that all required documents are included to facilitate the evaluation process.

What Happens Next?

All submissions will be evaluated based on:

- ▶ Commercial viability
- ▶ Financial sustainability
- ▶ Scalability and growth potential
- ▶ Market opportunity
- ▶ Development impact
- ▶ Overall investment readiness

Following the assessment and due diligence process, the top five projects will be selected to participate in the CBF 2026 Power Pitch and will receive guidance and preparation support to help them effectively present their investment opportunities before an international audience.

Submission Deadline

25th September 2026, 4:00 p.m.

For Further Information

Email: investmentfacilitation@ab.gov.ag

Telephone: (268) 562-5206
 ABIA encourages entrepreneurs, innovators, and business leaders across Antigua and Barbuda to seize this exceptional opportunity to gain exposure to regional and international investors and position their projects for growth, partnership, and long-term success.

No Deal Yet in Antigua-US Third-Country Nationals Talks

Antigua and Barbuda and the United States remain engaged in discussions over a proposed arrangement involving third-country nationals, with negotiations continuing and no agreement yet reached.

Maurice Merchant said on Thursday during the Post-Cabinet Press Briefing that the matter remains a “work in progress” as both governments seek to reach an understanding.

Merchant reminded that the discussions are taking place against the backdrop of concerns in the United States over illegal immigration.

Merchant said Antigua and Barbuda is prepared to assist the United States, while making clear that any arrangement would have to take into account conditions being negotiated by the two sides.

“Antigua and Barbuda values the relationship that we have with the United States and are prepared to assist the United States in this regard,” he said.



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

However, he stressed that there are specific stipulations attached to any potential arrangement, and those matters remain under discussion.

He indicated that once the outstanding issues are settled and an agreement is reached, the government would be in a position to move forward with the arrangement.

The government has maintained that the public will be notified once a formal agreement is reached between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has previously said that Antigua and Barbuda had agreed to accept 10 third country nationals annually under strict conditions. Those are that there will be background checks for criminal activity, and that those who will be sent to Antigua and Barbuda will all possess travel documents.

Mr. Browne had also revealed that the US wanted Antigua and Barbuda to accept a total 120 deportees, with no guarantees, a risk he is unwilling to take.

Saint Lucia is the latest country within the region to announce it will be accepting five men and one woman this week as third-country nationals.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99

-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
\$17.99



Government Cracks Down on Illegal Dumping with Proposed \$5,000 Fine

Determined to make examples of litterbugs and to restore civic pride among citizens and residents, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is heading to Parliament to increase the penalty for littering to \$EC 5,000.

The decision was finalised on Wednesday during the weekly meeting of the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda.

Indiscriminate dumping across the island is on the increase and Prime Minister Gaston Browne is determined that those who are culpable must be severely penalised.

In order to arrest the problem, Cabinet said a zero-tolerance approach will be adopted. Public participation will be key to reducing and ultimately eliminating illegal dumping, and residents are being asked to work along with law enforcement officials by reporting sightings of illegal dumping.

“Cabinet is encouraging citizens and residents who witness acts of illegal dumping and littering to utilise the Police Tip Line and provide information that can assist the authorities in taking action against offenders,” the Cabinet Notes outlined.

An incentive was also announced for persons whose information will be useful to investigators.

“In an effort to encourage greater public participation in identifying offenders, Cabinet further agreed that **50 per cent of the fine collected will be paid to persons whose information, provided through the Police Tip Line, leads to the successful identification and prosecution of persons engaged in littering**” it was noted.

“The initiative is intended to send a clear message that the indiscriminate disposal of garbage and other waste will no longer be tolerated,” Cabinet declared.

It was also announced that an intensified programme will be launched with



immediate effect to remove derelict vehicle from communities across the country, a joint initiative involving the **Ministry of Social Transformation, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the National Solid Waste Management Authority and the Development Control Authority.**

“If we are to move Antigua and Barbuda to the next level, we all must play our part in being responsible in keeping our nation clean,” Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant told yesterday’s Post-Cabinet Press Briefing.

“Government is frustrated, the Honourable Rawdon Turner and his ministry they are frustrated, and Mr. Turner informed the Cabinet that he is ready. He is going to don his boots and he’ll

be out on the streets and he will be removing all those derelict vehicles from the streets in Antigua and Barbuda,” Merchant stated.

Additionally, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda served notice that beaches must remain accessible for the enjoyment of citizens, residents and visitors and that roadsides and other public areas must not be occupied in ways that create hazards, obstruct access or contribute to unsightly conditions.

Assurances have been given that “the Government will combine **public education, community clean-up initiatives and stronger enforcement** to bring about a lasting improvement in the physical environment.

Minister of State Baltimore Wants More OECS Collaboration to Maximise the Benefits of the Blue Economy

Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Blue Economy, Randy Baltimore is calling for deeper collaboration among OECS countries to maximize the benefits of the Blue Economy.

Minister of State Baltimore made the call during his participation in a panel discussion on “Strengthening Regional and Extra Regional Cooperation to Enhance the Promotion of Management, Development and Sustainable Use of Living Aquatic Resources”.

The panel discussion formed part of 24th Eastern Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries and the Sustainable Use of Living Aquatic Resources taking in St. George’s, Grenada. In his presentation, the Minister mentioned the emergence of the Blue Economy as a critical sector of development to the economies of the OECS. He stated that “The OECS should speak



with One Voice when engaging international partners on matters related to the Blue Economy. As SIDS we share similar challenges and therefore should address them collectively to devise solutions for the greater development of our countries.”

Minister Baltimore also addressed is-

ues related to Sargassum affecting the Region, and commended the Government of Japan for its recent donation of an Aquatic Harvester to Antigua and Barbuda. Consequently, he called for further research to devise effective solutions to tackling the issue which has adversely affected the livelihood of many within the Region.



Curry House

ANTIGUA

**Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm**


[currytandoorihouseanu](https://www.facebook.com/currytandoorihouseanu)


[curryhouseanu](https://www.instagram.com/curryhouseanu)



(268) 736-7165



268 lives for this.

39 matches.

6+ weeks.

1 RBL CPL.

Official network partner of RBL CPL 2026.
We keep your riddim flowing.

FLOW



PREMIER PARTNER

Government and Opposition Senators Attend Parliamentary Conference in China



The members of the Senate – two government senators and one opposition - represented Antigua and Barbuda in China at an inter-parliamentary conference, joining parliamentarians from countries around the world to discuss strengthening the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The delegation was led by Senator Joel Rayne and included colleague Senator Lamin Newton with Senator Ashworth Azille of the opposition also forming part of Antigua and Barbuda's representation.

“Our discussions focused on how our respective countries can improve implementation, strengthen resilience, share best practices, and better prepare for challenges such as climate change, pandemics, economic vulnerability and other threats to sustainable development.

“For small developing states like Antigua and Barbuda, these conversations matter. International cooperation allows us to learn from the experiences of others while ensuring that the realities and vulnerabilities of small island states remain part of the global conversation,” Senator Newton reported.

In his closing remarks, he reminded my fellow parliamentarians that conferences only have value when discussions lead to action.

“We must turn commitments into legislation, discussions into policies, and policies into measurable results that improve the lives of our people.

“Sustainable development is ultimately about people, and the responsibility to build a stronger, more resilient future belongs to all of us,” he stated.

No complacency. No excuses. Action were the watchwords of the conference.



MORTGAGES DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU



Apply today.


**50% off
legal fees**


**100%
Financing**






Local Reality TV Show Goes Regional

A home-grown entertainment concept is moving onto a wider Caribbean stage with Love Link Caribbean, a new 10-episode reality dating series created by Antigua-based Love Link TV and filmed in Antigua and Barbuda.

The series brings together 10 singles representing Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, The Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It expands the Love Link concept, first introduced through pilot episodes – The Mixer, aired in 2024, into a full regional season centred on Caribbean personalities, perspectives and culture.

Antigua and Barbuda serves as both the production home and the setting for the cast's journey.

According to the producers, approximately 99 per cent of the production crew is Caribbean, while dialects, patois, humour, cuisine, customs and cultural references are intentionally retained as part of the storytelling.

"To see Love Link grow from an idea created here in Antigua and Barbuda into a production bringing together personalities and audiences from across the Caribbean is a proud moment," said Jamila Watkins, Founder and Executive Producer, Love Link TV. "We want to create entertainment that feels Caribbean - our voices, our personalities, our culture and our stories - and demonstrate what can be created right here in the region."

The project's growing regional reach was underscored on September 2, when 29 journalists, editors, broadcasters, media professionals and creators representing 11 Caribbean and diaspora markets attended an invitation-only virtual First Look hosted by Love Link TV and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA). The session followed an Antigua and Barbuda preview held on August 28 and gave regional attendees an ad-



vance look at select footage, followed by a moderated question-and-answer session with the cast and production team.

ABTA serves as an Executive Producer of the series. Through the partnership, Antigua and Barbuda's locations and experiences become part of the story, creating an entertainment-led platform through which Caribbean audiences can encounter the destination's romance offering.

"This is an Antiguan-created platform with the potential to showcase Antigua and Barbuda to audiences across our region in an entirely different way," said Shermain Jeremy, Director of

Tourism, Caribbean and Latin America, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. "It demonstrates what can happen when tourism and Caribbean creativity work together - supporting our own stories while creating new opportunities for audiences to discover the destination."

Love Link Caribbean is scheduled to premiere on Love Link TV's YouTube channel later in 2026.

The official trailer, premiere date and public viewing details will be announced at a later date.

Love. Culture. Connection.

Tourism Officials Launch Inaugural Social Media Excellence Awards

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) and the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA), in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Investment, have officially opened submissions for the 2026 Social Media Excellence Awards, inviting content creators and social media storytellers across Antigua and Barbuda to showcase their creativity and contribution to destination promotion.

The awards recognize local creators who use digital platforms to authentically tell the story of Antigua and Barbuda and inspire audiences to discover the destination. From the energy and colour of Carnival and the excitement of Sailing Week, to the creativity of Art Week, the flavours of the islands' culinary scene, the beauty of its 365 beaches, the unique experiences of Barbuda and the everyday moments that make Antigua and Barbuda special, creators continue to play an important role in shaping how the destination is experienced and perceived online.

This year's awards expand the call to



Sharifa George-Digital Media Manager of the ABTA

a wider pool of local creators, recognizing the growing role of social media in destination storytelling and the valuable contribution of authentic, locally produced content to Antigua and Barbuda's tourism marketing efforts.

"Social media has transformed the way people discover and choose destinations, and our local creators are some of our most powerful storytellers," said Sharifa George-Digital Media Manager of the ABTA "Through their creativity, unique perspectives

and genuine experiences, they are helping to showcase the many reasons why Antigua and Barbuda should be on every traveller's list. The Social Media Excellence Awards provide an opportunity to celebrate that contribution while encouraging even more high-quality destination storytelling."

The inaugural/2025 Social Media Excellence Awards highlighted the creativity and impact of local content creators who continue to tell the story of Antigua and Barbuda through compelling digital storytelling.

Demonstrating the power of authentic storytelling and showcase the destination to audiences both locally and internationally our 2025 winner was Qasim Henry of Antigua_Inside_Out.

The success of the 2025 awards has helped to build momentum for the 2026 programme, which expands the call to a wider pool of creators and continues to recognize those who consistently use their platforms to highlight the beauty, culture, experiences and people of Antigua and Barbuda.



**MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)**

PDV Caribe
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

Secondary Students Graduate From Junior Chef Academy Initiative



Aleka Lewis of St Mary's Secondary School, and Chef Desroy Spence of Hermitage Bay Resort are the 2026 Top Junior Chef and Mentor. The pair was awarded the title following a graduation ceremony at Peoples Place, Thursday September 3.

The 2026 Junior Chef Academy, organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and tourism Authority (ABHTA) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, allowed for the 16 secondary school students to gain hands on training in the culinary

arts at some of Antigua and Barbuda's top restaurants and hotels.

The young chefs were mentored by industry professionals, who guided the students accordingly. Chief Executive Officer of the ABHTA, Craig Marshall says that in witnessing the programme first hand he is vindicated in his position that Antigua and Barbuda has tremendous culinary talent and potential for continued growth in the industry.

Judge, Olyvanah Richardson, announced Aleka Lewis and her Mentor Desroy Spence of Hermitage Bay

as the winners. Out of a possible 775 points, Lewis amassed a total of 687, securing the top prize ahead of 15 other talented and capable young chefs. Lewis also gained the special award for innovation.

Richardson praised Lewis's heart and determination as her greatest qualities and ultimately the deciding factor in the judges' deliberations.

Lewis in accepting the award said, "the journey wasn't easy," admitting that the programme provided a steep challenge, one in which she outstand-

Local News



ingly overcame. She went on to offer special thanks to her mentor Desroy Spence for his care and guidance, and further extended appreciation to the Staff of Hermitage Bay Resort for accepting her into the space openly.

Several other participants were recognized for their unique virtues as part of the competition. Notable mentions were extended to Delisha Thomas of the Antigua Girls High School, and Eliana Lynch of Christ the King in the category of innovation.

Lynch was recognized as well for her

outstanding professionalism. Brian Joseph surpassed Lynch in this category by five points scoring a total of 157 out of a possible 175.

The top prize for professionalism was split equally between Nehjeann Thomas of Jennings Secondary School and Khloe Billey of the Pares Secondary School.

Aleka Lewis, on account of her victory on Thursday, will represent Antigua and Barbuda, in the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2027.

Participating hotels and restaurants

and Chef Mentors included Cocos Hotel, Charr'd Restaurant, Keyonna Beach Resort, Hodges Bay Resort, Blue Waters Resort & Spa, The Hut at Little Jumby, St. James's Club & Villas, Royalton CHIC Antigua, The Verandah Antigua, Hammock Cove Antigua, Galley Bay Resort & Spa, Hermitage Bay and Jumby Bay Island.

Special recognition is extended to Keyonna Beach Resort and Hodges Bay Resort, each of which welcomed two Junior Chefs into their operations for the programme.

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER



ANTIGUA
Carnival

THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

Legendary **70**

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027

ANTIGUA CARNIVAL @ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL



ROYAL POLICE FORCE OF
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POLICE WEEK OF **ACTIVITIES**

"United in Duty, with Technology to Serve our Community"

SEPTEMBER 2026



SUNDAY

06

SEPTEMBER

CHURCH SERVICE

📍 Spring Garden Moravian
St. John's Street

🕒 8am



WEDNESDAY

09

SEPTEMBER

SICK AND SHUT IN

📍 Police Head Quarters

🕒 10am



FRIDAY

11

SEPTEMBER

CULTURAL FOOD FAIR

📍 Rising Sun

🕒 10 am Until



SATURDAY

12

SEPTEMBER

COMMUNITY DAY

📍 Most Villages

🕒 10am



*One Force. One Community.
Stronger Together.*

The World Has Broken the 1.5°C Promise. Small States Should Not Have to Pay the Bill



By Sir Ronald Sanders

The world has broken the 1.5°C promise it made to its most vulnerable countries. The breach has not yet been recorded on a sustained basis, but the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) says it is widely assessed as unavoidable and likely within the next few years. Even its most optimistic scenario puts peak warming at 1.8°C. For small states that fought to secure recognition of 1.5°C in the Paris Agreement, this confirms the failure to deliver a safeguard on which their security, economies and, in some cases, survival depend.

Small and climate-vulnerable states contributed negligibly to the greenhouse gas emissions that created this crisis, yet they are already borrowing heavily to repair its damage. If the major emitting countries have failed to prevent the world from breaching 1.5°C, those least responsible should not incur more debt to pay for the consequences.

When the Paris Agreement was concluded in 2015, small island developing states fought hard for recognition of 1.5°C because the difference between 1.5°C and 2°C was understood to be a matter of life or death. Every

additional fraction of a degree increases the risks from sea-level rise, extreme weather, ecosystem damage and loss of habitable land.

I wrote at the time that the Agreement would ultimately be judged on whether warming was held to no more than 1.5°C and whether industrialised countries provided adequate financing for mitigation and adaptation. Eleven years later, the first objective is slipping away, while the second remains far below what vulnerable countries require.

However, the European Union and its member states deserve recognition as the largest providers of international public climate finance, contributing €31.7 billion from public sources in 2024 and mobilising a further €11 billion privately. But even this comparatively greater effort falls short of the needs confronting vulnerable states.

UNEP now speaks of an “overshoot”, in which temperatures exceed 1.5°C before later efforts seek to bring them down. But damage incurred during an overshoot cannot simply be reversed. Infrastructure must be rebuilt, displaced communities resettled and public debt accumulated after climate disasters repaid.

This is where climate vulnerability becomes a debt problem.

When a hurricane destroys roads, schools, hospitals, electricity systems and homes, governments must rebuild. If grants and highly concessional financing are unavailable, they borrow. Climate destruction produces debt, while debt service reduces the resources available for resilience and development.

Hurricane Maria demonstrates the scale of the danger. The damage and losses it caused in Dominica in 2017 amounted to approximately 226 per cent of the country’s 2016 gross domestic product. Few economies could

absorb destruction on that scale without lasting financial consequences.

The international financial system compounds the problem. Many Small Island Developing States are excluded from concessional financing because per capita income supposedly makes them too wealthy to qualify, even though one hurricane can destroy assets and economic output accumulated over many years. A country can therefore be classified as too prosperous for concessional development finance while remaining vulnerable to losing much of its economy overnight.

The injustice is obvious. Vulnerable governments nevertheless have obligations of their own. They must enforce stronger building standards, improve water management, protect coastlines, expand renewable energy and invest seriously in disaster preparedness. But those responsibilities do not erase the unequal origins of the crisis or enable small economies to finance repeated reconstruction without outside support.

The accounting is incomplete in another respect. A 2026 systematic review of 263 scientific studies and 36 reports notes estimates that military activity accounts for approximately 5.5 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Treated as a country, the world’s militaries would rank collectively as approximately the fourth-largest emitter. Yet less than one-tenth of military and conflict-related emissions is captured in existing international reporting.

An analysis by researchers at Queen Mary University of London, Lancaster University and the Climate and Community Institute estimated that the first 14 days of the 2026 war involving the United States, Israel and Iran produced more than five million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Whatever the security arguments, these emis-

sions enter the same atmosphere and contribute to consequences borne by states far removed from the conflict.

There is now also an important legal dimension.

In 2024, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea concluded that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions constitute pollution of the marine environment under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In July 2025, the International Court of Justice confirmed that states have obligations under international law to protect the climate system from significant harm. It also recognised that breaches may engage the established principles of state responsibility and reparation where the necessary legal conditions are satisfied.

These advisory opinions do not automatically produce compensation. Questions of causation, attribution and quantification remain. But climate commitments are now reinforced by authoritative findings concerning the legal obligations and potential responsibility of states.

The international financial response should reflect that reality.

Climate adaptation and reconstruction in highly vulnerable small economies should be financed primarily through grants and deeply concessional resources, not commercial borrowing.

Debt clauses that automatically suspend repayments after major climate-related disasters should become standard. The Multidimensional Vulnerability Index should be used throughout international financial institutions so that access to concessional finance reflects exposure to shocks rather than relying principally on per capita income.

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage must receive resources proportionate to the problem it was created to address. Debt relief or restructuring should also be considered where sovereign debt has been substantially increased by repeated climate disas-

ters.

These measures are reasonable responses to unequal responsibility for a global problem and the unequal burden of its consequences. No one should regard them as charity.

The principle should be straightforward: no vulnerable country should become more indebted because it must repeatedly rebuild from damage caused substantially by a global problem for which it bears negligible responsibility.

Crossing 1.5°C does not mean that further climate action is pointless. It underscores the imperative for remedial and preventive action. Major emitters must accelerate reductions in greenhouse gases, while all countries, including small states, must do what they can to build resilience.

But the latest assessment changes the

terms of the discussion.

For years, vulnerable states were asked to trust that emissions would fall sufficiently, climate finance would increase and 1.5°C could be protected. That confidence has not been justified.

Small states must accept responsibility for what they can and should do themselves. But they should not quietly accept a financial system in which they must borrow heavily to pay for the consequences of a crisis they did little to create.

The world is failing to keep the 1.5°C safeguard. Small states should not be required to pay the bill.

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



CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2027
A CARIBBEAN-LED GLOBAL CONFERENCE

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Towards a Climate Smart Future:
Resilience | Innovation | Adaptation

April 7-9, 2027
Hybrid Conference

GRENADA
+ Virtual Participation

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

WE INVITE SUBMISSIONS OF:

- Research Papers
- Poster Presentations
- Oral Presentations

Submit your abstract!

For More Details Visit:
global.uwi.edu/climate-conference-2027

#UWIClimateConference2027

TEN YEARS ON: ANTIGUA'S DOCKYARD TAKES ITS PLACE IN WORLD HISTORY

Zoë Carlton

Ten years ago, a collection of old stone buildings beside a beautiful harbour in southern Antigua acquired a new description.

They were no longer simply Nelson's Dockyard, one of the island's best-known landmarks and the backdrop to generations of sailing, Sunday expeditions, weddings, parties and school trips.

On July 17, 2016, UNESCO inscribed the Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites on the World Heritage List, recognising not only the familiar Dockyard at sea level but the extraordinary landscape around it — fortifications, barracks, lookouts and archaeological remains stretching into the hills above English Harbour.

For a small Caribbean country, it was a very large achievement. Antigua and Barbuda had its first World Heritage Site.

Archaeologist Dr Reg Murphy, then Manager of Heritage Resources at National Parks and Secretary-General of Antigua and Barbuda's National Commission for UNESCO, was one of the central figures behind the successful nomination.

It was the culmination of decades of Antiguan preservation and research, building on the work of people including Desmond Nicholson and many others who had fought to save, restore and understand the Dockyard.

There was resistance. Murphy remembers some people regarding the Dockyard primarily as a monument to colonialism and questioning why Antigua should celebrate it.

But the research was already showing why that interpretation was inadequate.

"This isn't simply an English, white, colonial story," Murphy says.

And perhaps the most interesting thing about the ten years since UNESCO agreed with him is just how much more complicated — and much more Antiguan — that story has become.

Putting people back into the story

UNESCO recognised an outstanding Georgian naval facility adapted to its Caribbean environment. But its inscription also explicitly acknowledged that the traditional emphasis on admirals, naval strategy and architecture had often left less room for another essential part of the story: the Dockyard was constructed and operated through the labour and skills of enslaved Africans.

Murphy says research suggested that at times perhaps 70 per cent of those working within the naval system were enslaved Africans or people of African descent.

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

**COUNTRY
ROAD TRIP**

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Tobago launches 'retroactive' \$500 baby grant

TOBAGO has launched a new universal child benefit which will provide parents with \$500 per month for every child for the first five years of the child's life, with payments being retroactive to January 1, 2026.

The benefit forms part of a wider package of social services being rolled out by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), alongside the introduction of the new Tobago ID digital platform.

In a Facebook video post on Tuesday, Tobago House of Assembly Chief Secretary Farley Augustine said the grant was one of the initiatives promised during the election campaign and was intended to provide additional financial support to families.

"On the campaign trail, we spoke about \$500 per month for every single child born in Tobago. Guess what? That baby grant actually begins on September 1," he said.

Augustine explained that parents can apply for the benefit online through the Tobago ID, which is designed to give residents a single digital identity through which they can access services across THA divisions, departments and companies.

He added that applicants would be able to use the Tobago ID to apply for and track applications for services.

"So, from September 1, you just go online, get your Tobago ID, sign up for that baby grant, ensure you have the correct banking information, and voila, \$500 every month," Augustine said.

The payment will be available to children born in Tobago or children



born to Tobagonians, including those born in Trinidad because of medical complications. Augustine said the benefit would apply regardless of the circumstances of the child's birth.

"Every single child born in Tobago or born to Tobagonians, whether you're born at the hospital, whether it was a home delivery, whether circumstances force you to make the baby at a hospital in Trinidad because of complications, you are guaranteed access," he said.

The baby grant is also being accompanied by a "baby box" initiative, which provides newborn essentials. Augustine said the combination of the baby box and monthly payment was intended to provide practical assistance to parents during the early years of a child's life.

"I know that can't mind a child, but that will stop a hole," he said.

He added, "That will certainly en-

sure you provide for some savings. That will assist some parents in at least getting a tin of milk or some cereal for the month."

On the Tobago ID, Augustine described it as a key part of the THA's effort to make access to Government services easier.

"There is no need to be afraid of creating a Tobago ID. As a matter of fact, every Tobagonian is genuinely proud to identify themselves as Tobagonian," he said.

Augustine said the initiative represents a significant expansion of direct financial support for families in Tobago, while the digital ID is expected to streamline access to a range of THA services. He added that the initiatives marked another stage in Tobago's development.

"We have reached this destination, but Tobago's journey is only just beginning," Augustine said. (Trinidad Express)

New Parliament website to offer access to laws, debates

Jamaica's new Houses of Parliament website is slated for official launch in October.

The announcement was made by Speaker of the House of Representatives Juliet Holness, who said the platform is "in the very last stages of being overhauled".

She was speaking at Monday's opening ceremony for the 48th Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic (CAA) Region at Moon Palace Jamaica in St Ann.

Holness, who chairs the CPA-CAA Region, said the website represents an important step in efforts to make Parliament more accessible, responsive, and better equipped to meet the information needs of its stakeholders.

The revamped portal will include a national legislative repository, providing digital access to parliamentary records; enhanced accessibility features; and live streaming of parliamentary meetings, allowing citizens to follow proceedings remotely.

"You will have to look nowhere else for every single piece of legislation ... every single debate, every single document that has ever existed in Parliament's days gone by and currently," Holness said.

She added that the site would feature a directory of all parliamentarians, making it easier for citizens and other stakeholders to identify their representatives and access information about their parliamentary roles.

The platform will also offer virtual tours of Parliament and tools designed to improve access for persons who are visually impaired.

"For those who have disabilities, for the first time, you will be able to log on to the Parliament of Jamaica and you can listen to whatever debate you would like to, whatever you would like to know, and, most importantly, be

able to tour our Parliament and walk through it as if you are not in a rural space but physically in Kingston, Jamaica, walking through its Houses of Parliament," she explained.

Holness said the website overhaul forms part of wider efforts to modernise parliamentary operations.

In her welcome address, she noted that the conference theme, 'Strengthening Parliaments in the Digital Age', is particularly relevant as the region undergoes rapid technological change.

She urged governments across the region to use digital transformation strategically to strengthen parliamentary operations, improve transparency, and

deepen public engagement.

"Digital transformation is influencing the processes by which parliamentary business is undertaken. It is changing how information is created, managed, and disseminated. It changes us, and, therefore, challenges us to reconsider established approaches to parliamentary procedures, administration, public engagement, and service delivery," she said.

The conference, which ends on Saturday, is expected to provide a forum for regional parliamentary leaders and stakeholders to share best practices and strengthen capacity-building initiatives across Commonwealth legislatures. (Jamaica Gleaner)



COMMUNITY CHARITY
Run/Walk

TO BENEFIT THE

THE SALVATION ARMY **SUNSHINE HOME** 
 FOR GIRLS
 Empowering Girls. Building Brighter Futures.

DATE: Saturday, September 5, 2026

START TIME: 5:00 a.m.

DURATION: Approximately 2 hours

ROUTE: South Mall, Ebenezer to Turners Beach (approximately 5 miles)

PARTICIPATION CONTRIBUTION: EC\$50.00

REGISTER NOW

PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE

- Water Stations Along the Route
- Light refreshments at Turners Beach
- A commemorative medal for early finishers.

SPONSORS: Turner's, VELVET TOUCH, Epicurean, SignPro, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, F.L. ENTERPRISE, FLE, Choice, Red Cross, We Care Medical Benefits Scheme, Wellness footprints, EYE MOBILE, Vision Care.

Regional News

CARICOM reparations conference set for Barbados

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) will convene its third regional conference on reparations in Barbados this month as the regional bloc seeks to strengthen its push for reparatory justice and deepen ties with Africa and the global African diaspora.

The three-day conference, under the theme 'Reparatory Justice as the Coming Enlightenment', will be held from September 17 to 19 at the Wyndham Grand Sam Lord's Castle in St Philip.

It is being hosted by the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC), the Government of Barbados, and the CARICOM Secretariat.

The forum comes in the wake of the adoption of United Nations Resolution A/RES/80/250 on March 25, which declared the trafficking and racialised chattel enslavement of Africans as "the gravest crime against humanity".

The conference will provide practical guidance on implementing the revised CARICOM Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice, 'A Manifesto for the Coming Enlightenment' while examining emerging perspectives on reparatory justice from African and Caribbean political discourse.

It will also seek to broaden public dialogue on the revised Ten-Point Plan and assess progress in the global reparations movement against the backdrop of the 25th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Second International Decade for People of African Descent, and the African Union Decade for Reparatory Justice.

Organisers said the conference is also intended to strengthen collaboration among CARICOM, the African Union, civil society, and the global African Diaspora, while encouraging greater political, diplomatic, and community participation in the regional and international reparations movement.

A major expected outcome is the adoption of a 2027-2031 Action Plan



for Reparatory Justice, which will establish measurable targets for joint action with partner organisations across the global African community.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Motley, CARICOM Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett, and CRC Chair Sir Hilary Beckles are scheduled to address the opening ceremony.

The programme will also feature a high-level session involving CARICOM heads of government, members of the CARICOM Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Reparations, and representatives of the African Union.

Participants will include CARICOM

ministers responsible for reparatory justice, national reparations commissions and committees, associate members, and representatives of the United Nations.

Reparations activists from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Latin America are also expected, along with scholars, civil-society leaders, cultural figures, and youth delegates.

The overarching objective, organisers said, is to re-energise CARICOM's advocacy through the CRC and deepen solidarity between Africa and its diaspora. (Jamaica Gleaner)

GENERATOR RENTALS

GENERATORS FOR RENT

150KVA single phase 3wire.120/240v.
50KVA single phase 3wire 120/240v.

CONTACT:

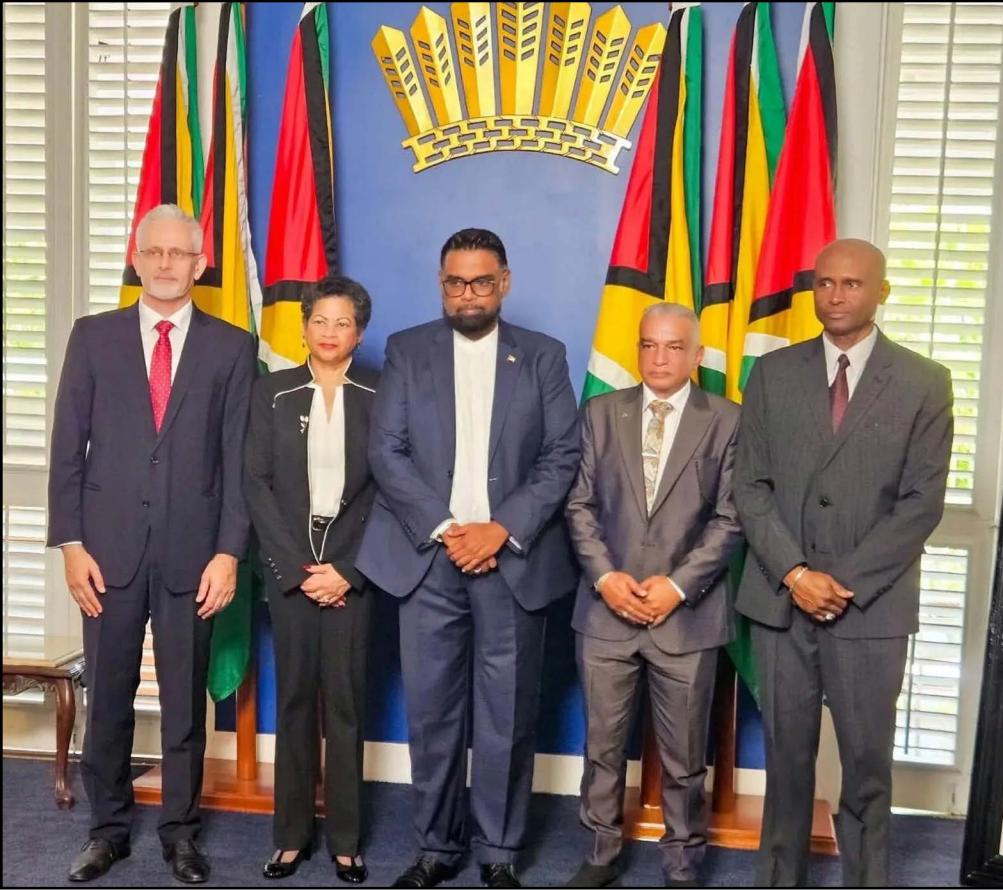
THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Regional News

PAGE 25

Commission wraps up site visit, prepares Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Liliendaal for M/V Barima public inquiry



The Commission of Inquiry into the capsizing of the M/V Barima announced today that while a firm start date has not yet been set, several preliminary milestones have been completed since its appointment on July 30.

Commissioners have conducted an initial site visit of the maritime accident, established an operational Secretariat, and secured the Arthur Chung Conference Centre as the official venue for all public proceedings.

The panel is currently conducting technical reviews of evidence acquired from key state agencies, including the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD), the Transport and Harbours Division, the Guyana Coast Guard, and the Air Guard. Investigations are focusing on the vessel's seaworthiness, sailing conditions, and crew operations during the voyage.

The Commission is also finalizing its Rules of Procedure, developing a public web portal for official records, and compiling a list of potential witnesses.

Ahead of the formal proceedings, the Secretariat has issued an official notice inviting members of the public, private entities, and relevant organizations with evidence or recommendations to contact the Commission at the Office of the Secretariat, Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Liliendaal, East Coast Demerara or via email at presidentialcommissiongy@gmail.com. the Commission can also be reached via WhatsApp on +592 674-7473

The Commission emphasized that thorough evidence analysis prior to the hearings is necessary to ensure an efficient, impartial, and transparent inquiry into the casualty and overall maritime safety practices. (Kaieteur News)



Ukraine sees 'new dynamic' in peace efforts as Vladimir Putin says chance of deal remains



Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday there was a chance of reaching an agreement to end the war in Ukraine, while Kyiv said it expected a “new dynamic” in peace efforts.

Putin, speaking at an economic forum in Russia’s far east, said a number of countries including the U.S. and China were ready to support a peace settlement.

“Ultimately, however, the problem must be resolved by the countries involved in the conflict — Russia and Ukraine,” he said.

“We are grateful to everyone attempting to contribute to a settlement. Is there a chance? In my view, yes, there is.”

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha told reporters in Kyiv: “I believe that we will now have a new dynamic in the peace efforts, with the return of this active phase of political and diplomatic engagement in many capitals around the world.”

He did not elaborate further, telling reporters to “follow the news.”

After four and a half years of Europe’s deadliest conflict since World War II, it is rare for either side to offer an upbeat assessment of peace prospects. They last met for U.S.-mediated talks in February.

Since then, with the U.S. distracted by the Iran war, both Russia and Ukraine have ramped up long-range air attacks deep inside the other’s territory. Hostilities at sea have escalated sharply with attacks by both sides on ports and commercial shipping, pushing up global grain prices.

Chicago wheat futures dropped by more than 2% on Putin’s comments.

However, neither Putin nor Sybiha cited specific reasons to expect progress; on the contrary, the Kremlin leader said Ukraine’s latest actions presented an obstacle.

In response to a question, Putin said

Ukrainian attacks on civilian merchant ships and “reported threats of attacks on civilian aircraft” were “acts of state terrorism”, which he said “complicates the prospects for bilateral peace talks”.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned airlines and insurance companies this week that the presence of Ukrainian drones had made Russian skies dangerous, although he said Ukraine would target only Russian military facilities and not threaten civilian aircraft.

On Wednesday, Ukraine urged the U.N.’s aviation agency to ask members to ban operations in Russian airspace. Ukraine has been cut off from international civil aviation because its own airspace is considered unsafe since Russia invaded in 2022.

Putin said contacts with Ukraine were still taking place.

“It is difficult for me to say right now to what extent these contacts are leading to a peace agreement, given the statements we have heard recently from Ukraine’s top leadership,” he said.

“However, contacts do exist and are continuing on an ongoing basis — again, primarily through intelligence channels.”

Speaking alongside Sybiha in Kyiv, Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar said: “If India can be of any help, in any manner, we are there.”

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Putin on Monday that the war in Ukraine needed to end for humanity’s sake and that New Delhi would support every effort to stop the fighting. (Reuters)

Trump \$1 coin makes him first living president on US currency in a century



Donald Trump's portrait has made its way on to a US coin - the latest move by the president to put his personal stamp on American institutions.

On Wednesday, the US Mint launched the \$1 (£0.74) coin with a portrait of Trump alongside the words "Liberty" and "In God We Trust", to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

The Mint said the coins, which are being marketed as a collectable, were not being put into circulation for daily use.

The law bans living presidents from appearing on US currency, but a design clause in legislation for the anniversary was used to overcome this.

The coins - priced at \$61 for a roll of 25 and \$154.50 for a bag of 100 - were "not currently in stock" on the mint's website within hours of going on sale but it said more are being made.

The coins were also being sold in vending machines at the US Mint store

in Washington DC.

The BBC has contacted the US Mint, the Treasury and the White House for further detail.

The coin has been "created to celebrate this historic national milestone" with a "once-in-a-generation anniversary design destined to become a standout addition to modern collections", the US Mint said

The coins have a golden colour but do not contain any actual gold. According to the US Mint, they are 88.5% copper with the balance being made up of zinc, nickel and a manganese brass outer layer.

While they are not in circulation, they can be used as legal tender to pay off debt and taxes, although federal law states that businesses can decide whether or not to accept them.

In May, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said his department was planning to issue a new \$250 bill bearing a

portrait of President Trump.

At the time, Bessent highlighted that another living US president has previously appeared on the country's currency.

A half-dollar that was issued to commemorate America's 150th anniversary in 1926 featured then-President Calvin Coolidge.

The Trump administration has also cited the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020, from Trump's first term.

While this statute prohibits portraits of living people on the reverse (tails side) of coins, it does not explicitly cover the obverse (heads side), where Trump's likeness appears on the new \$1 coins.

In March, the Treasury announced that US paper money would soon bear Trump's signature - another first for a sitting US president. (BBC)

Strong El Niño expected to intensify, increasing risks of extreme weather into 2027



A powerful El Niño event is firmly underway and is expected to strengthen further in the coming months, potentially reaching very strong intensity before the end of the year.

In a new update on Thursday, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned that the phenomenon could significantly disrupt global temperature and rainfall patterns, increasing the risk of floods, droughts and extreme heat events through 2027.

According to forecasts from WMO's Global Producing Centres, there is an "exceptionally high likelihood of nearly 100 per cent" that El Niño will continue through February 2027.

Fuelled by exceptionally warm ocean conditions across the tropical Pacific, El Niño is expected to strengthen further during the coming months to a very strong intensity before peak-

ing towards the end of this year, with climate impacts continuing well into 2027.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres described the event as a major warning sign for the planet.

"El Niño is being supersized before our eyes. The science leaves no room for doubt: the planet is in uncharted waters, and those waters are heating up. Sea surface temperatures are rising, temperatures keep climbing, and the world is in the danger zone of extreme weather. The race now is between rising risks and our commitment to take climate action and protect people. We must win that race," Guterres said.

Meanwhile, WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said the strengthening El Niño could have widespread consequences for communities and econo-

mies around the world.

"El Niño in Spanish means boy child — but it has the potential to deliver a massive blow to communities and economies across the world. We are already seeing disruption and devastation from droughts and floods, and we expect these impacts to increase as El Niño intensifies," she said.

She said the scale of the event requires an unprecedented level of preparation and coordination.

"Never before in the 50-year history of the World Meteorological Organization have we launched such a major mobilisation with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services who are on the frontline of delivering the forecasts and services to save lives and livelihoods," she continued.

"WMO is committed to working closely with partners across the United Nations and humanitarian system to provide the climate intelligence and insights needed to support disaster management and climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, health, energy and water resources," Saulo added. "We have no time to lose."

WMO El Niño/La Niña Updates are considered among the most authoritative global sources of seasonal climate information. They combine forecasts from WMO Global Producing Centres with expert assessments from national meteorological agencies and climate prediction institutions around the world. (WMO)



ANTIGUA

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

currytandoorihouseanu

curryhouseanu

(268) 736-7165

Rescue efforts continue as Nepal-China flood death toll surpasses 1,270

Rescue teams in Nepal are working around the clock to reach workers trapped inside hydropower facilities more than a week after flash floods devastated entire communities in the Himalayas.

Last week, a cascade of rocks, mud and water that scientists believe came from a glacier collapse near the Langtang Lirung mountain peak swept away villages, roads, and bridges in Nepal and Tibet.

More than 1,270 people have been killed, and more than 4,700 are still missing, authorities said on Thursday.

Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said 1,252 bodies have been recovered as the total number of missing in the country remained at 4,216. Hundreds of workers are believed to be trapped inside hydropower plants, including some in tunnels, near the country's border with China.

In neighbouring Tibet, Chinese authorities have reported 21 deaths and 541 people missing.

"We still hope there are some survivors inside," Sanjay Kc, an officer from the Nepalese army engineering department, said, in front of bulldozers trying to remove huge piles of mud blocking the entrance of a tunnel in the Rasuwa district, one of the worst affected areas in Nepal. "Because it's a big power house inside, so it's a big room, and we feel that the whole power house is not flooded," he told Al Jazeera.

Families of those missing are gathering each morning hoping for news about their loved ones. For many, the wait is excruciating.

"Every day I come here hoping to find my father," said Pratik Rana, the son of a missing engineer. "But every day at sunset I feel my hope fades



away... [A] father is equally important for everyone, but for me he was a precious part of my life."

In other affected areas, authorities are using all available tools, including zip lines and helicopters, to rescue people trapped in remote villages. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated floods and mudflows have left at least 2.2 million tonnes of debris.

In the capital Kathmandu, forensic teams are working to identify bodies.

Al Jazeera's Jessica Washington, reporting from a DNA testing facility in the city, said many of the bodies being found are in a state of decomposition.

"Forensic teams on the ground told us that there are some things that can help with the identification process, such as tattoos and jewellery, but many bodies were found in such a state that it's very challenging to identify them."

On Wednesday, the country's Prime Minister Balendra Shah said authorities would continue searching for survivors while also starting rehabil-

itation and rebuilding efforts.

Dharma Raj Upreti, chief of the NDRRMA, told the Reuters news agency that about 20,000 houses would have to be rebuilt, including 7,500 that have been destroyed.

"There is no point in rebuilding the houses in the same locations, as that would expose people to the same risks," Upreti told the news agency, adding that authorities were trying to identify safer areas to relocate the communities and build up new settlements. As of Monday, the UN said more than 3,400 displaced people were living in 27 displacement sites in Nuwakot and Rasuwa, mostly in schools.

Nepali authorities have pointed to the role of major greenhouse gas emitters that have a "historical responsibility to compensate vulnerable nations like Nepal", said Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal. He added that the government has officially filed a "formal climate compensation claim letter" to international partners. (Al Jazeera)

Business football league to kick off this weekend



APUA Telecoms team celebrate with their trophies after winning the JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday, December 6, 2025. (File Photo)

The 2026 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship is set to commence this weekend.

Twenty-eight (28) teams, a decrease of six teams from last year, will battle for supremacy in this year's competition, which will kick off with triple headers across four venues in Antigua on Saturday.

Matches at all five venues will be played simultaneously at 5 pm, 6:15 pm, and 7:30 pm.

The 2025 champions, APUA Telecoms, will be defending their title in the competition in which the 28 teams are divided into four groups to engage in round-robin pool play in the preliminary stage.

APUA Telecoms will launch their title defense against AUA FC in a Group 2 clash at Fort Road at 5 pm.

It will be followed by a Group 4 match between Jack Idle and Cocos Hotel at 6:15 pm. The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board and Blue Waters Hotel will meet in a Group 1 encounter at the same venue at 7:30 pm.

In a Group 3 triple-header at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos, His Majesty's Prison (HMP) United will take on the Department Immigration in the opening game.

It will be followed by an encounter between the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) and Public Works Asphalt at 6:15 pm, and newcomers National Housing Development (NHD) Full Experience will clash with Jolly Harbour at 7:30 pm.

At the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park, Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) will meet Public Works Department FC in a Group 4

affair at 5 pm.

The 2024 champions Hermitage Bay, which finished third last year, will oppose Royalton Chic Hotel in another Group 4 encounter at 6:15 pm, and the 2024 third-place finishers Sandals will tackle Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in a Group 2 match at 7:30 pm.

In a triple-header at Jennings, Keyonna Beach Hotel will challenge the University of the West Indies (UWI) Frigate Bird FC in a Group 1 match at 5 pm.

National Housing Development (NHD) Demolition Squad will clash with Jumby Bay Resort in another Group 1 affair at 6:15 pm, and the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) Oilers will face the Galley Bay Ballers in a Group 2 encounter at 7:30 pm.

Jamaica's Ackera Nugent finds best form in Serbia

Jamaicans Lavanya Williams and Ackera Nugent were in winning form at a World Continental Tour bronze meeting inside Beograd Stadium in Serbia on Wednesday.

The in-form Williams rebounded from her eighth-place finish on Sunday in Brescia, Italy, to claim victory in the women's 100 meters, clocking 11 seconds.

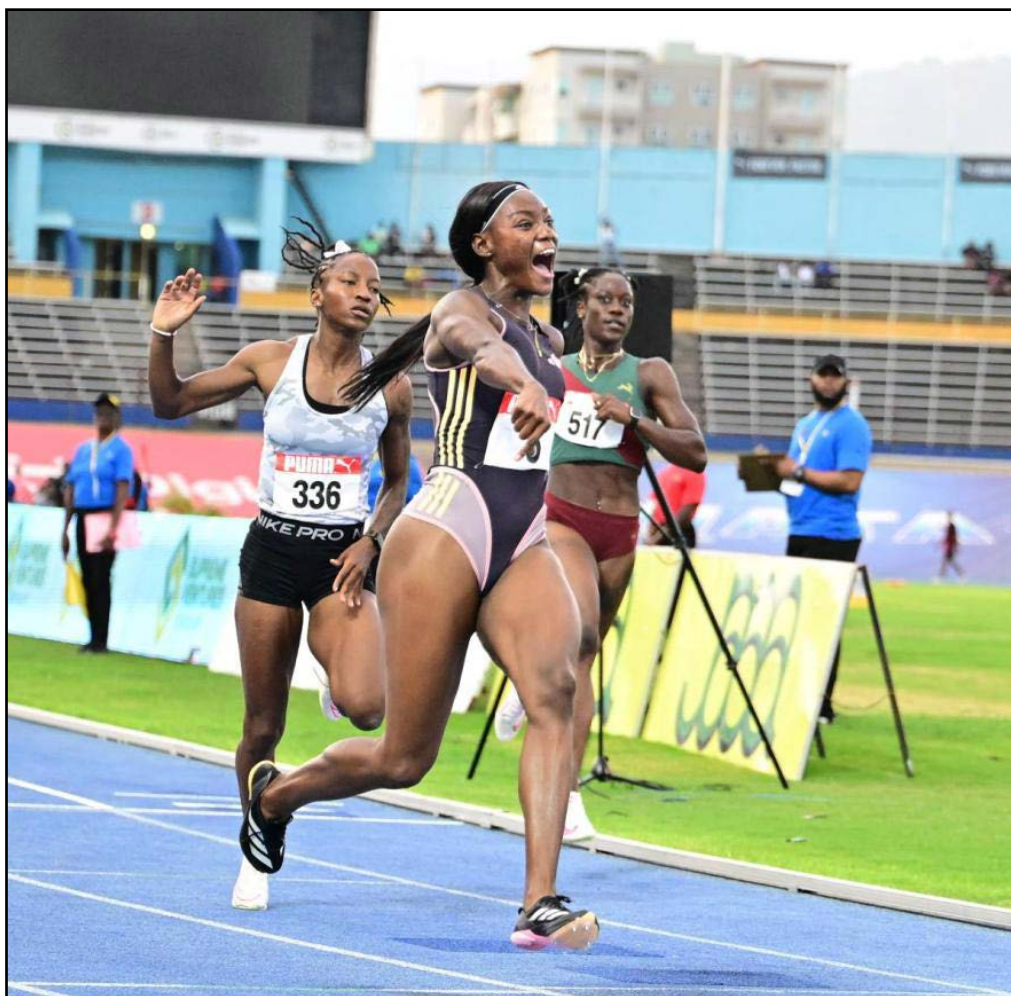
Jamaica's Sabrina Dockery, who won in Berlin on Sunday, was a close second in 11.01 seconds. Fellow Jamaican Niesha Burgher finished sixth in 11.41.

Sprint hurdler Nugent secured her first victory of the season as the 2025 Diamond League champion won the women's 100-meter hurdles in 12.56 seconds. She finished ahead of Rayniyah Jones in 12.71 seconds, and Italy's Giavola Comass, who clocked 12.93 seconds.

Jamaica's Kadrian Goldson produced the best result among the men, finishing second in the 100-meter final. Fresh from a sub-10-second victory in Berlin on Sunday, Goldson clocked 10.04 seconds behind South Africa's Bayanda Walaza, who won in 9.89 seconds. Canada's Jerome Blake was third in 10.06 seconds.

There was also a third-place finish for Jamaica's Sachin Dennis in Final Two of the men's 100 meters, as he clocked 10.29 seconds.

Zandrion Barnes of Jamaica was fifth in the men's 400 meters in 45.37 seconds. Javier Gomes of Venezuela won



Ackera Nugent

the event in 44.58 seconds.

Meanwhile, Jamaica's two-time world 200 meters champion Shericka Jackson has ended her 2026 season after suffering an apparent hamstring injury at the Lausanne Diamond League meet in Switzerland on August 21.

Jackson, 32, pulled up while competing in the 200 meters and fell to the track before being taken off the field in

a wheelchair by medical staff.

The Jamaican confirmed the end of her season in a post on Instagram, saying it was not how she wanted to end her 2026 campaign but expressing hope for a return next season.

Jackson recorded season-best times of 10.81 seconds in the 100 meters and 21.87 seconds in the 200 meters this season.



268 736 7165

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

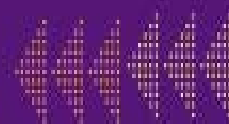


↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

⌚ Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am

🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!



Alcaraz recovers to reach third round at the US Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz was already in the final by the time he dropped a set last year in the US Open.

When it happened in his second match this year, Alcaraz tried to look at the positives. After missing four months with a right wrist injury, the extra work might help.

“I wanted to be quick, to be honest. I’m not going to lie,” Alcaraz said. “But at the end, I realized that just playing four sets, it was really good for me to test everything physically, to test my body, how I feel, and tomorrow how I’m going to feel after this match.”

The defending champion rebounded from a quick deficit by winning eight straight games and beat Jaime Faria 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 on Wednesday night.

The No. 2-seeded Alcaraz dropped his serve midway through the first set but soon was back to playing long

stretches of flawless tennis.

“After that I just tried to be focused, tried to stay calm and I’m thinking that good things are going to happen again,” Alcaraz said.

He didn’t drop a set last year until the final against Jannik Sinner, becoming the first man since Roger Federer in 2015 to go through his first six matches without doing so. He then beat Sinner in four sets for his second US Open title.

The 23-year-old Alcaraz then picked up his seventh major title at this year’s Australian Open and is on a 16-match winning streak in Grand Slam tournaments.

But after missing the French Open and Wimbledon during his absence, even Alcaraz said he didn’t know what to expect in Flushing Meadows, where he won his first major title in 2022 at 19.

Daniil Medvedev, the US Open champion the year before that, said a player of Alcaraz’s caliber is always a top contender any time he is in the field.

“We have no idea how Carlos’ wrist is going to feel, body is going to feel going later into the tournament, but he’s definitely a top favourite for the title,” Medvedev said.

Faria, three months younger than Alcaraz, broke for a 4-3 lead in the first set and used a powerful serve to stay ahead. Alcaraz felt after getting broken that he was rushing too much.

“After that I just wanted to play short points, which was a mistake for me,” he said. “I just needed to play patient, to play long rallies, three, four, five shots, and then go for it.”

Alcaraz stressed again that he is no longer in pain and has been hitting his forehand without any restrictions in practice.



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, left, meets Jaime Faria, of Portugal, at the net after winning a match during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026. (AP)

NBA suspends Clippers owner Ballmer, fines team and Leonard in cap circumvention case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The NBA imposed a sweeping punishment against the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday for violating salary cap circumvention rules, suspending owner Steve Ballmer for one year, fining the team US\$30 million and forcing it to forfeit five first-round draft picks.

Also, two-time NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard was hit with a US\$700,000 penalty, president of basketball operations Lawrence Frank was banned for six months and team president of business operations Gilman Zucker was suspended for one year. The Clippers will give up one first-round pick in each draft from 2029-2033.

The league came down hard on the organization after a nearly yearlong investigation led by an outside law firm. The Clippers had said multiple times that they had done nothing wrong and expected to be exonerated.

“I think that we’re going to be in the clear,” Leonard said in April, “so I’m not stressing it.”

At the same time, Frank said, “If you know Steve and know Steve’s integrity, you know there’s nothing to it. We believe and we’ve very confident we’re on the right side of this.”

The team maintained that stance Wednesday. “We vehemently reject the NBA’s findings, which are the result of a heavily biased investigation seeking to justify a predetermined narrative rather than facts and evidence,” the team said in a statement.

“What the league told us privately differs from what it announced today publicly, and they have not held themselves close to the standard Commissioner (Adam) Silver set at the start of this investigation to ensure its fairness and accuracy.”

The Clippers said they will “now fight just as hard to demonstrate our innocence. We intend to vigorously challenge these findings and penalties



Los Angeles Clippers owner Steve Ballmer sits on the sideline before an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls in Inglewood, California, on March 13, 2026. (AP)

through every avenue available to us and look forward to an ethical and impartial arbitration process.”

The league said it and the players’ union agreed to confirm the penalties as final and binding on all parties. It said the outside law firm continues to receive information involving the investigation, and the league “will consider further action as appropriate.”

The NBA began investigating in September 2025 whether a US\$28 million endorsement contract between Leonard and Aspiration Fund Adviser LLC — a company that filed for bankruptcy last year — broke league rules, following a report by journalist Pablo Torre.

Earlier this year, Aspiration co-founder Joseph Sanberg was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to defrauding investors and lenders of at least US\$248 million.

The Clippers released a letter from Ballmer’s attorney David Kelley to Silver in which he described the investigation as “a witch hunt” and the subsequent penalties as a “gross injustice.”

Kelley accused Silver of not keeping his promises that the investigation would be governed by due process and

fundamental fairness as well as the burden being on the league to prove any violations through evidence.

Kelley wrote that no league rule prohibits team personnel making introductions to both sponsors and vendors in response to player requests.

“Retroactively punishing the Clippers for violating a rule that never existed is hardly consistent with due process,” Kelley wrote.

The league said Ballmer knowingly sought to help Leonard obtain off-court income deals, approved a business deal that he knew was a precondition for Aspiration to enter into an endorsement contract with Leonard, and for failing to create conditions under which his team followed league rules.

The league said Ballmer was suspended for “knowingly seeking to help Mr. Leonard obtain off-court income opportunities,” among other issues.

Leonard’s trade to the Toronto Raptors has been on hold pending the outcome of the investigation. The Raptors had said they still want Leonard, and he apparently is just as eager to return to the team where he won an NBA title and was Finals MVP in 2019.

Antigua Falcons beat TKR to close in on playoff in 2026 CPL

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons claimed an eight-run victory over the Trinbago Knight Riders in the final game of the season at the Queen's Park Oval in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) to move closer to the playoffs on Wednesday night.

Hasan Nawaz was the standout performer with the bat, hitting 76 off 48 balls, while captain Moeen Ali struck 32 not out off 24 balls, opener Evin Lewis cracked 24 off 23 balls, and all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall hammered 20 off seven balls to lift the Antigua Falcons to 183 for four off their allotted 20 overs after being sent in to bat.

Cornwall grabbed three for 17 to claim the Man of the Match Award, and Joshua James captured two for 40 to restrict the Trinbago Knight Riders to 175 for seven off their 20 overs to secure victory for the Antigua Falcons, who notch their fifth win in nine matches after a rain-cancelled fixture against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at Warner Park on Sunday.

Joshua Da Silva hit an unbeaten 54 off 31 balls, Kieron Pollard struck 41 off 36 balls, and captain Nicholas Pooran scored 22 off 10 balls, while opener Colin Munro and Justin Greaves each made 18 for the Trinbago Knight Riders, who suffered their third straight loss to finish their homestand, having lost four of their five matches.

The Falcons made a promising start in the PowerPlay, with Evin Lewis and Rahkeem Cornwall putting on a decent 40-run partnership before Cornwall chopped on off the bowling of Usman Tariq.

This was the 17th consecutive CPL match that Tariq has taken a wicket. They had the chance to send Lewis back for 16, but the catch was put down by Terrance Hinds.

The Knight Riders have relied on their spinners to bowl a tight first six overs,



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons celebrate with wicket-taker Rahkeem Cornwall, center, during their Caribbean Premier League match against the Trinbago Knight Riders at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. (CPLT20)

but the Falcons didn't allow themselves to get bogged down and reached 43 for one at the end of the PowerPlay.

Dropped catches would plague the Knight Riders again shortly after, as Moeen Ali was dropped on one by Akeal Hosein. By this time, Hasan Nawaz was establishing himself in this innings and looked to be the man to spearhead the Falcons innings.

Nawaz reached his half century in 36 balls with Moeen Ali on his second lifeline, supporting from the other end. Nawaz, who struck nine fours and three sixes, was eventually caught by Alex Hales off the bowling for Lahiru Kumara.

The Knight Riders approached the PowerPlay with a high-risk, high-reward strategy, taking 63 runs for the loss of four wickets. Colin Munro and Nicholas Pooran both got starts but fell to Rahkeem Cornwall, who grabbed his three wickets in the PowerPlay to peg back the Knight Riders run chase.

Kieron Pollard, hampered by an exist-

ing injury, looked to put the team on his back once again as his 55 partnership with Joshua Da Silva kept the Knight Riders in touch heading into the last five overs.

But when Pollard was smartly caught by Jayden Seales off the bowling of James, it looked an uphill task for the Knight Riders from there.

Joshua Da Silva brought up his half-century, hitting a six off the final ball, but this was nothing more than a consolation as the Knight Riders have potentially played themselves out of play-off contention.

The Falcons remain at the top of the seven-team standings with 11 points from nine matches and are in a strong position to qualify for the playoff stage of the T20 competition in Barbados.

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will face unbeaten Guyana Amazon Warriors in their final preliminary stage round-robin match at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Tuesday, September 8.