

The Prime Minister's Vision Initiative Heads To Barbuda

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Dwayne Edwards (centre) Appointed the Board of Directors of the Social Security Scheme

Prime Minister's Vision Initiative Is Heading To Barbuda

The initiative through which thousands of free eye-glasses are being distributed to those in critical need, is heading to Barbuda.

The Ministry of Health which oversees the initiative has announced that the Prime Minister's Vision Initiative will operate out of the Barbuda Community Centre in Codrington from September 14 to 18.

Under the initiative, individuals 40 years and older who are in need of reading glasses will receive a pair free of cost on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The arrangement comes from an agreement between the government of Antigua and Barbuda and Restoring Vision, a non-profit organization which sees has as its mission restoring vision to those persons living on the lower rung of the economic ladder.

Already, hundreds of persons in Antigua have benefited from the free eye-glasses and Barbudans will from next week have their turn to benefit under the arrangement.

"By restoring sight, we are unlocking human potential – improving health, advancing education and strengthening livelihoods," Restoring Vision said in a mission statement.

A spokesman for the ministry of health said the policy of the government is to ensure that benefits that are enjoyed by persons living on Antigua are made equally accessible to those living on Barbuda.

"We are pleased to collaborate



RestoringVision Ministry of Health, Wellness Environment and Civil Service Affairs

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with Restoring Vision to bring the benefits of free eye glasses to those who are less able to see an eye specialist and to pay for eye glasses, which are often quite expensive and beyond the capacity of many in the society to afford,"

he declared.

The World Health Organization has called the provision of eye-glasses one of the most cost-effective of all health care interventions.

Governor General's Deputy Welcomes Brazil's New Non-Resident Ambassador To St. John's



The Federative Republic of Brazil has named Marcia Abreu as its new Non-Resident Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda. She will serve Antigua and Barbuda from her base at the Brazilian Embassy in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Ambassador Abreu presented her Letter of Credentials to the Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts at a ceremony at Government House this week.

In his remarks, Sir Clare noted that Antigua and Barbuda and Brazil established diplomatic relations in February 1982, only a few months after the twin-island state had attained political Independence.

"Over the years, our countries have developed a relationship founded on mutual respect, friendship and cooperation. Antigua and Barbuda values Brazil's longstanding commitment to South-South cooperation and the support extended in areas including agriculture, defence, health, diplomatic training, food security and other aspects of national development," Sir Clare recalled.

He noted that Brazil had actually opened an embassy in St. John's back in 2009 and while it has since closed,



the relations between the two countries remain as strong as ever.

"At the regional level, Antigua and Barbuda and Brazil continue to engage through mechanisms such as the Organization of American States and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. We were pleased to participate in the Brazil-Caribbean Summit held in Brasilia on 13 June 2025, which provided an important

opportunity to deepen dialogue and identify areas for further cooperation between Brazil and the Caribbean," Sir Clare stated.

The appointment of Ambassador Abreu comes as Ambassador Vera Lucia dos Santos Caminha Campetti has completed her tour of duty in the region and has returned to Brasilia for redeployment.

Chair of OAS Development Council Wants Development Placed at The Centre of Hemispheric Stability

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Sir Ronald Sanders, as Chair of the Inter American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), has called for stronger development cooperation between OAS member states and the Organization's Permanent Observers.

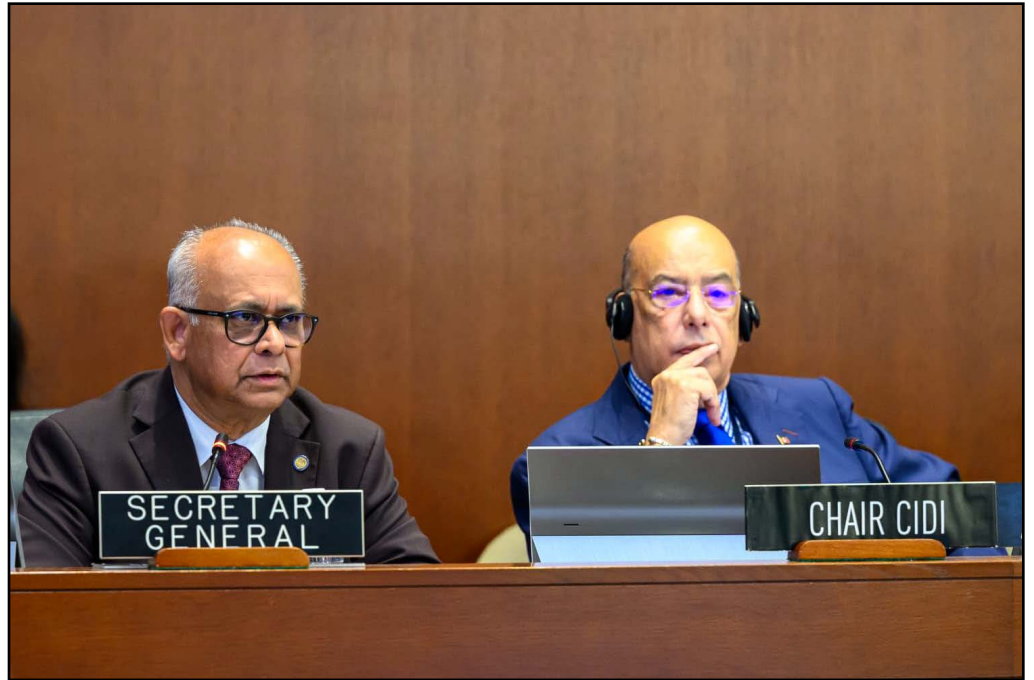
Sir Ronald made the call at a special meeting that he convened on 9 September as Chair of the Council. The meeting, attended by OAS Secretary General Albert Ramdin, brought together the 32 active OAS member states and Permanent Observers, including the European Union, China, Spain, Italy, France, Morocco and Japan.

His central message was that development should not be treated as secondary to the other principal concerns of the inter-American system. "Development is not the fourth pillar of the inter-American system. It is the foundation of the other three," he declared.

Sir Ronald said human rights are diminished when people cannot feed their families, obtain health care or educate their children. Democracy loses authority when citizens see no path to decent work or improvement in their lives, while security becomes fragile when the lawful economy offers young people no credible place.

He also linked inadequate development to migration pressures.

"Migration, which commands so much of our collective attention, often begins where hope and opportunity have ended," he said. "When devel-



OAS Secretary General Albert Ramdin and Sir Ronald (Chair) at CIDI meeting

opment fails, the other pillars do not stand untouched. They begin to fracture."

Sir Ronald acknowledged the valuable support that Permanent Observers from Europe and Asia have given to the OAS in democracy, human rights and security. However, he observed that development had not received comparable attention in the Organization's external partnerships.

He argued that a more prosperous hemisphere would create stronger markets, more reliable trading partners and wider opportunities for investment and trade. Continued exclusion from economic opportunity, by contrast, would fuel political frustration, insecurity and migration pressures that no

border could fully contain.

Sir Ronald also called for greater support for climate-resilient development, particularly for small island states repeatedly forced to borrow to replace infrastructure destroyed by severe storms.

"Development cooperation is not charity at the margins of foreign policy," Sir Ronald said. "It is an investment at the heart of shared stability and shared prosperity."

He proposed that the meeting should be the first in a series of practical encounters between CIDI and the Permanent Observers, directed towards building partnerships and producing measurable results.



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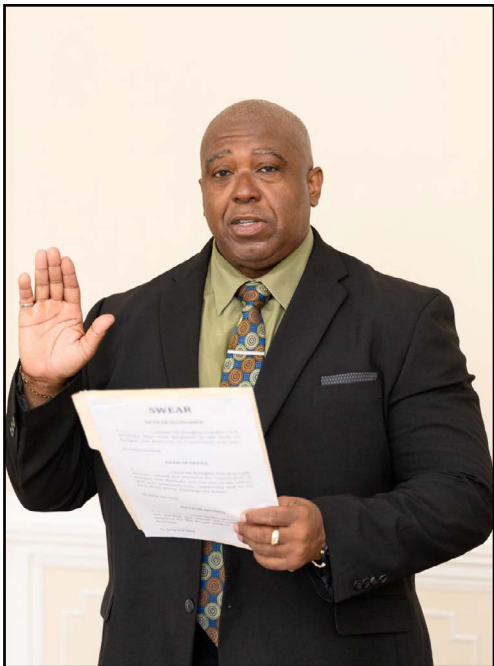
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Dwayne Edwards Appointed the Board of Directors of the Social Security Scheme



Dwayne Edwards has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Social Security Scheme with immediate effect.

Edwards' appointment completes the establishment of the board which is responsible for policy direction of the Scheme. He has been appointed to represent the government on the board.

The Social Security Board of Directors is headed by Joy Dublin-Baptiste – chair; Sherri-Ann Brazier – representing the Employers Federation, Martin Cave – Rep-



resenting the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Alrick Daniel of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union representing employees and Edwards, the government's representative.

Social Security Director, David

Mathias serves as ex-officio member of the board on the basis of his position as the person responsible for the day-to-day administration of the scheme.

No deputy chair nor a secretary has been appointed.

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The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) invites applications for the position of Customer Services Engineer within the Electricity Business Unit. The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating all Transmission & Distribution Customer Services issues with an aim at increasing collections and reducing revenue losses. Resolve customers' complaints and contributes to debt reduction and conserve resources.

Key duties include:

1. Resolve and clarify complaints of customers, products and services.
2. Analyze customer services issues, determine cause of problems, select, explain and expedite correction or adjustment using the best solutions to customer service issues.
3. Follow up to ensure that customer services issues are resolved.
4. Lead a team of individuals in adherence with the Authority's Performance Management System.
5. Contributes to debt collection and reduce losses:
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 - (b) Ensure that the electricity service accounts of customers whose arrears have been cleared following disconnection for non-payment of services are reconnected in a timely fashion in keeping with the Authority's policy.
 - (c) Monitor and observe the legality of electrical installation and connection at customers' premises.
 - (d) Report abuse and illegal use of company property and equipment.
6. Ensure that service of a high quality is delivered:
 - (a) Conduct training, sourcing training, mentoring and coaching of all staff members under command.
 - (b) Administer and provide technical guidance to Electrical Installation and maintenance teams.
 - (c) Review electrical drawings submitted by Applicants to ensure they comply with APUA's standard and the National Electric Code (NEC).
 - (d) Collaborate with the Inspectors to ensure that electrical drawings meet the required standards before approval
 - (e) Adequately respond to faults on the Network and addressing same in a timely and safe manner.
7. Install, record, service, repair and keep street lights operational.
8. Manage the installation, maintenance and change out of revenue meters, both single and three phase meters. This include AMI meters and associated systems.
9. Manage the maintenance of secondary distribution system.
10. Manage vegetation on the distribution system to minimize faults.
11. Prepare and submit reports on a monthly basis and an annual budget of Electricity Customer Services Department.
12. Conserves the Authority's resources, develop and implement programs geared at reducing non-technical losses.

The successful candidate **MUST** possess the following:

- A bachelor's degree or equivalent in electrical engineering or related field from a reputable tertiary institution.
- Experience in Electrical Engineering and Customer Services a plus.
- Excellent interpersonal and human relations skills.
- The ability to effectively lead a team of skilled workers and to perform optimally in a team environment or individually.
- Excellent analytical, customer service, verbal, written, report writing, and computer skills.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Thursday, 17th September, 2026

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

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CIBC Caribbean Donates Computers to HMP Prison Education Programme



Through the Seeds of Hope programme, an initiative of The University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus Lifelong Learning Unit, CIBC Caribbean has donated ten desktop computers to inmates of His Majesty's Prison enrolled in professional development courses.

Paula C. M. Lee, Executive Director of the Lifelong Learning Unit, stated: "The partnership between two esteemed Caribbean brands is testimony to how we can strengthen the Region and improve the lives of the people that we serve. Meanwhile, continuous education is an essential benefit to incarcerated individuals. The world of work is evolving rapidly, and without professional development, many may leave prison unemployable, unskilled, and without credentials. The Seeds of Hope programme helps counter these challenges by providing inmates with constructive opportunities for future growth."

Michael Roach, Platinum Manager at CIBC Caribbean Antigua, emphasized the bank's belief in second chances: "We believe deeply in the transformative power of education. These computers are just one tool, but we hope

they will help to open even more doors to education, personal development,

and brighter futures."

Superintendent Col. Trevor Penny-



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Local News

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uals who enter our gates are made productive for their reintegration into society. I hope additional corporate citizens will emulate CIBC Caribbean and support prisoner rehabilitation through lifelong learning, and other contributions”.

Students also shared their experiences. Kaiser Lake, who has completed five courses, expressed enthusiasm for Governance in Leadership and the Public Sector, noting his goal to contribute meaningfully to society upon release. Corian Thomas, having completed several courses, now serves as a mentor to fellow inmates.

Each year, the Lifelong Learning Unit offers scholarships to inmates. In previous years, Kenisha White and Omari Phillip were recognized with highperformance certificates. Current-

ly, ten students are enrolled in diverse courses.

This marks the second donation of computers from CIBC Caribbean. Priscilla Leonce, Head of Country, underscored the broader impact: “As they learn and improve their skills, behaviours can be transformed, resulting in better homes, families, and communities.”

Lee concluded: “Education is a right that should not be denied to anyone willing to participate. To help young men and women reach their fullest potential, we must rely on responsible analysis, datadriven decisions, and courageous implementation of programmes that prevent incarceration, and recidivism.”

feather welcomed the donation, reaffirming the prison’s commitment to rehabilitation: “Within HMP, our team has a mission to ensure that individ-



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Local News

ABTA Highlights Featured Artists and Their Creations Ahead of Art Week, 2026



Meet the artists behind the canvas: Makō Williams (left) and Heather Doram M.F.A. G.C.M (right), are among the artists featured in Antigua and Barbuda Art Week's new 'Meet the Artists' video series. (Photo credits: The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

With just two months to go before Antigua and Barbuda Art Week, an immersive celebration of art, culture and creativity being held from November 11 - November 18, 2026 throughout the Caribbean twin-island paradise of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, is inviting audiences to get to know the artists shaping the destination's art scene, through a new 'Meet the Artists' video series.

Featuring more than ten artists, ranging from professionals to self-taught and emerging talent, the 'Meet the Artists' series, explores the artists, their inspiration, their creative process, their style and the stories behind their art.

The first four 'Meet the Artists' features released introduce the distinct personalities and styles of visual artists Heather Doram M.F.A. G.C.M, Makō Williams, Mark Brown and Dylan E. Phillips, creating

an opportunity for audiences to connect with the artists and explore their work, prior to Art Week.

Audiences will also have opportunities to encounter the artists during Art Week. Makō Fine Art Gallery, founded by Makō Williams, will present 'Out of the Krokus Bag', an eight-day programme by the Rootz Krokus Collective showcasing exhibitions, performances, workshops, artist demonstrations, conversations and community experiences themed around Antiguan life and ancestral traditions. Works by Heather Doram and Dylan E. Phillips will form part of the public art 'Dual Thresholds' interactive installation, while Mark Brown is organising an exhibition showcasing the work of present and past Art and Design students of the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS).

The 'Meet the Artists' series will introduce a new artist every Wednesday

on the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's digital platforms.

For the latest artist features follow the 'Meet the Artists' playlist on the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism YouTube channel as well as the Antigua and Barbuda Art Week pages on Facebook and Instagram. Join the conversation using the hashtag #AntiguaBarbudaArtWeek as the destination prepares to be taken over by 'Culture in Colour'.

Art Week will open with 'Symphony of Colours', a celebration of Antigua and Barbuda art, music and culture at historic Redcliffe Quay. The wider programme will invite audiences to discover Antigua and Barbuda through Art Trails, Art and Culture Bus Tours, exhibitions and galleries, public art, workshops and live creative experiences.

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda Art Week go to: visitantigua-barbuda.com.



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Why Bigger May Not Be Better: Bank Mergers, Market Power and the Price of Lost Competition



By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

Imagine a world where financial transactions depended solely on bartering and promises. Banking stands as your shield against that chaos. They secure your hard-earned money, fund local businesses, and keep our economy moving. True success isn't corporate profits, but delivering fair, reliable financial lifelines to our communities.

A useful starting point is a service-quality framework adapted from SERVQUAL, built around five dimensions: reliability, responsiveness, assurance, empathy and tangibles. In banking, that means dependable transactions and ATMs; prompt assistance; competent and trustworthy staff; attention to customer circumstances; and accessible branches and digital services. Major mergers should therefore be accompanied by service-quality assessments so promised efficiencies can be measured against actual customer experience.

This is particularly relevant in Antigua and Barbuda following discussion about CIBC Caribbean Bank. The Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, has supported greater local ownership while warning against further concentration of the domestic banking market. His position deserves serious consideration

because it balances two legitimate objectives: strengthening indigenous financial capacity while preserving the competition necessary to protect consumers.

The immediate context is significant. Butterfield announced on May 28, 2026 an agreement to acquire CIBC's 91.7 per cent controlling interest in CIBC Caribbean for approximately US\$1.794 billion, subject to required approvals. The proposed combination would create an institution with approximately US\$29 billion in assets.

The Prime Minister's caution should not be interpreted as opposition to local banks. It is an argument for responsible local ownership within a competitive market. A government committed to indigenous ownership need not support every acquisition if the result could concentrate excessive market power in too few hands.

He has also raised concerns about fees, ATM availability, lending and service quality. These issues define the daily relationship between banks and citizens. If consolidation leaves customers with fewer realistic alternatives, pressure on institutions to improve service, moderate fees and compete for borrowers may weaken.

Bank mergers can bring genuine benefits through economies of scale, stronger cybersecurity, better technology and broader services. But in a small market, removing a meaningful competitor can also reduce consumer choice.

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's policy direction reinforces this concern. Through its Office of Financial Conduct, the ECCB is strengthening consumer protection with attention to fair treatment, transparency, fees and charges, access to services and complaint resolution. Its wider financial-conduct framework also recognises the importance of maintaining a competitive market environment.

The ECCB has not taken a position on any particular acquisition. Nevertheless, its approach provides important institutional context for the Prime Minister's concerns. Consumer protection and competition are closely connected because customers are better protected when credible alternatives exist.

The numbers make the matter more compelling. Butterfield's May 2026 investor presentation estimated that CIBC Caribbean held approximately 25 per cent of deposit market share in Antigua and Barbuda. If an institution representing roughly one-quarter of national deposits were acquired by an existing major domestic competitor, regulators would need to examine the resulting combined market share and whether customers would still have meaningful choices.

Concentration is not the same as monopoly, and high market share does not itself establish anti-competitive conduct. The proper test is whether consolidation would materially weaken competition by reducing alternatives, raising barriers to entry, diminishing pressure on fees and service, or restricting access to credit.

This is especially important for small and medium-sized enterprises. Many depend on relationship banking and cannot access international capital markets. In a highly concentrated system, an entrepreneur's practical ability to shop for credit can become severely constrained.

Internationally connected banks may also provide correspondent relationships, trade finance, letters of credit and specialised services that smaller institutions may find difficult to replicate. For an economy dependent on tourism, imports, investment and cross-border commerce, these capabilities have strategic value.

None of this means foreign ownership is inherently superior. Strong in-

digenous banks can understand local conditions, retain more profits domestically and contribute significantly to national development. The correct choice is not foreign versus local, but competitive, capable, customer-focused and well-regulated banking versus excessive concentration.

Every major banking merger in a small economy should therefore undergo explicit competition-impact and consumer-impact assessments. Regulators should examine market share, realistic alternatives, likely effects on fees and lending, barriers to entry, correspondent-banking capacity and consequences for small businesses. Service quality should also be measured before and after consolidation.

The central test should be simple: will the merger strengthen the institution, preserve genuine competition and produce measurable benefits for customers?

Seen in that context, the Prime Minister's reluctance to actively promote further domestic consolidation is prudent and consistent with his support for local ownership. National ownership should strengthen the economy, not unintentionally weaken the competitive forces that protect citizens.

Economic progress cannot be measured solely by institutional size, ownership or profit. Sound policy must also consider depositors, homeowners, entrepreneurs, pensioners and families. Progress is most durable when private success and public benefit advance together.

A strong banking system is not defined by the size of its banks, but by whether citizens and businesses enjoy secure, reliable, accessible, affordable and genuinely competitive financial services.

In banking, bigger can be better—but only where progress serves the broadest public interest and ultimately contributes to the greatest good for all.

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The views expressed are those of the writer

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Regional News

Dominica confirms accepting Colombians under migration programme with US

The Dominica Government on Wednesday confirmed that five Colombian nationals deported by the United States under the third-country nationals programme have since returned to their country.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit told a news conference that Roseau had concluded all arrangements with Washington regarding the programme and that “the United States sent us a first list of people and we did not accept those names, and they subsequently sent us a second list of people to choose from.

“Normally, they give you a list to choose from and we selected five people. They’re all five Colombians and they came into Dominica and they’ve all left and returned to Colombia. So there were five Colombians who came in and in a quick time they left Dominica and they went to Colombia. It was very fast,” Skerrit told reporters.

He said currently, Dominica has no third-country nationals under the programme and that Roseau has engaged the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to manage on behalf of Dominica.

“The United States Government gave a sum of funds to provide for those individuals. They were placed at a hotel and they were fed and they were taken care of. They went shopping at the shops in Dominica.

“They went to the barber shop and got haircuts and so on and they all decided to go to return to the home country of Colombia. Once they arrived, we made that offer to them of whether they intend to go back to their country and they all indicated that they were willing to go back to their country.”

Skerrit said that under the migration agreement “the United States has been pragmatic on this.

“They sent us the first list and we



felt that, one, there are some people we would not accept and, secondly, we wanted more information on those persons. At the time, they could not provide to us additional information and they sent us a second list and all the other lists with the information that we needed and they all went away.

“None of the five people though, I believe there was one minor, but none of the five people had any criminal records. I guess we’re just people trying to make a better living in the United States and they found themselves in difficulties and had to be sent out.”

But Skerrit insisted that none of the migrants “had any criminal records or something. They never gave any issues.”

Skerrit said that he believes Dominica has a “duty to humanity and there are so many Dominicans who live in people’s countries, so we see it beyond

just a third-country national issue and a bilateral arrangement between ourselves and the United States.

“We have a higher philosophical view on humanity and the right for everybody to survive and to be regarded,” Skerrit said, adding that under the agreement with the United States “we have agreed every quarter to accept five or seven, between five and seven, either five or seven, but not more than that, every quarter.

“So we receive the first five, and I’m sure that if the need arises from the United States standpoint, they will make another request to us, and we will examine that request based on the agreement that we have with the United States, and the conditions under which those persons will be accepted into Dominica, and both sides have been respectful to each other on that, I must say, I’m going to make that point publicly,” Skerrit added. (CMC)

Privy Council introduces free visa process for parties attending London appeals

Commonwealth citizens travelling to London to attend Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) proceedings can now access a free, streamlined visa application process.

The initiative, developed by the JCPC in collaboration with the United Kingdom (UK) Home Office and Ministry of Justice, is available to appellants, respondents and members of their legal teams who are attending appeals in person. The process does not extend to wider family members, the JCPC said in a statement on Thursday.

Once a hearing date has been confirmed, counsel must use the JCPC portal to indicate who will attend the hearing in person and whether they require a visa.

The JCPC will then verify the applicant's connection to the case before issuing an invitation letter and providing further guidance on the visa application process.



Visa applications will continue to undergo the UK's usual database checks, and the Home Office may request additional information in some cases, the JCPC said.

JCPC Registrar Laura Angus said the new process reflects the committee's commitment to open justice, transparency and continuous improvement.

"The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is very pleased to be able to

confirm the UK Government's offer of this service to parties attending appeals in London. We listen to our users' feedback and this decision underlines the JCPC's commitment to open justice, transparency and continual improvement. We also routinely offer hybrid hearings for parties who prefer to take part in appeal hearings virtually," Angus said. (Jamaica Observer)



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Regional News

Dutch firm secretly invited by Govt. among three bidders for MV Barima salvage



Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) publicly advertised an EOI inviting qualified salvage companies to submit proposals.

The process was advertised across state and private media, as well as MARAD's social media platforms, from August 2 until August 14, 2026.

MARAD firmly rejected claims that any firm had been pre-selected, issuing a statement asserting that no individual, company, or entity had been selected to undertake the salvaging of the MV Barima and emphasising that the process remained

open and transparent.

At a recent news conference, President Irfaan Ali told reporters after being asked a question, that the EOI period had closed and that several companies were being shortlisted before being invited to submit prices for the recovery operation.

President Ali noted at the time that the expressions of interest had closed and that those interests were being shortlisted by the agency before shortlisted entities would be invited to supply prices.

The president estimated that 10 or more entities may have expressed interest, cautioning that he did not have the exact figure, and noted that companies were being assessed against established criteria with no distinction between local and international firms.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall, SC, had revealed that the price tag to salvage the sunken MV Barima could be be-

B.K. International Inc. has submitted the lowest offer among three bidders vying for the contract to retrieve the wreck of the MV Barima, which capsized off Castle Flats, Essequibo Coast on nearly two months ago.

The tender opening took place on September 8, 2026, under MARAD file reference number 211/2026/34. The salvaging work is structured strictly on a "NO CURE NO PAY BASIS," ensuring the chosen contractor will receive payment only upon the successful recovery of the vessel.

According to documentation seen by this publication, figures unsealed at the tender opening show B.K. International's proposal undercut its local and international competitors by hundreds of millions of dollars. B.K. International Inc. offered a bid of \$1,034,000,000 with a bid security of \$15,600,000 backed by NAFICO.

Industrial Fabrication Inc. offered a bid of \$1,895,000,000 with a bid security of \$28,500,000 backed by

Premier. Netherlands-based firm KMS B.V. offered a bid of USD \$2,035,100,000 with a bid security of USD \$136,691 backed by KBC Bank.

The financial submissions follow weeks of growing public pressure and political friction surrounding the recovery process.

Earlier this week, Kaieteur News reported that 25 days had passed since the deadline for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to salvage the MV Barima, yet the Government had still not disclosed which company or companies would undertake the recovery of the vessel.

Opposition MP Ganesh Mahipaul condemned the delay as "wickedness" and "an insult" to the Guyanese people, particularly the families of the more than 100 people who lost their lives in what he said was the country's largest tragedy in modern times.

The official timeline for the procurement process began when the

Regional News

tween US\$8M and US\$10M. During his weekly programme 'Issues in the News', the Attorney General defended the government's move to tender for the salvage operation.

Before it was decided to salvage the 87-year-old ferry, which capsized on July 18th, leaving 73 confirmed dead and at least 30 still missing, the Irfaan Ali administration had been considering establishing a memorial at the site where the vessel sank.

"The president indicated that he met with the families of the persons who were missing and they requested that they ought not to be raised. Apparently, the families changed their minds and they requested that the boat be raised. The government said, okay, we will raise the boat. It will cost somewhere between 8 to 10 million US dollars. A tender is out to salvage the boat," Nandlall said.

However, this contradicts what this publication reported in early July, when the government appeared to be preparing the nation for the possibility that the sunken MV Barima would never be recovered.

Prime Minister (Ret'd) Brigadier Mark Phillips had stated that bringing in additional foreign divers "will not change the situation" and that the state-owned vessel was "likely to remain there as is" on the seabed off the Essequibo coast near Iron Punt.

His remarks, made after a sitting of the National Assembly, come even as grieving relatives continued to demand a full salvage operation, insisting their loved ones deserve every possible effort to recover the vessel and any remains still trapped inside.

"In terms of the actual raising of the vessel, I don't think we've contacted anybody to raise the vessel," Phillips stated. "If you listen to the interview with the French, the whole issue of raising the vessel is not being forwarded at this stage because it's difficult to do that exercise now. The vessel is likely to remain there as is."

The shift toward a permanent memorial, outlined in a draft "Declaration of Agreement" circulated to grieving families on Saturday and seen by this publication, triggered backlash from relatives of those still missing. Relatives accused authorities of attempting to wrap up salvage operations prematurely and potentially influencing the upcoming Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the maritime disaster.

The administration's stance represents a shift from earlier public commitments. Regarding the controversial document sent to the victims' families, Phillips maintained that the government is merely testing options.

"So, if they receive letters, it's just for discussion as to the way forward, making it a memorial site if that is the wishes of the family," Phillips said.

"The government is prepared to listen to them, and maybe that's why the letters went out." It was only after the public backlash, that the government's stance on raising the vessel shifted in favour of doing so.

MARAD's Request for Proposals documents outline the considerable technical challenges involved in recovering the vessel.

The 38.6-metre ferry lies in soft seabed mud at a depth of between 13 and 15 metres (approximately 42 to 49 feet). Poor underwater visibility, strong currents, and tidal streams are among the harsh maritime conditions, contractors must contend with. Prospective salvors were required to submit detailed methodologies covering the various stages of the operation, demonstrate between five and 10 years of successful salvage experience in Guyanese or Caribbean waters, and show the technical capacity to recover and stow the vessel upright on a barge while preserving forensic evidence required by the Commission of Inquiry.

The disaster itself occurred late on the night of Saturday, July 18, 2026,

when the 87-year-old state-owned ferry capsized and sank while en route from Georgetown to Port Kaituma.

The vessel encountered severe difficulties and issued a distress call around 11:00 PM off Castle Flats, approximately 10 nautical miles off the Essequibo Coast. Passengers reported that a massive wave struck the ship, causing water to rapidly flood the cargo hold and forcing the vessel to tilt and roll over.

Although the official manifest recorded 133 individuals on board, subsequent search and rescue operations and investigations revealed an estimated 179 people were aboard, exposing an illicit cash-for-seats scheme at the port.

Dozens of lives were lost in the tragedy, leading to an official Commission of Inquiry and multiple murder charges against key crew members.

The fallout from the sinking has sparked debate over how the wreck should be handled. Leader of the Opposition, Azruddin Mohamed, had previously called on the government to authorise the recovery of the Barima at no cost to the state, using specialised international salvage teams.

Mohamed criticised earlier suggestions that the vessel could remain submerged and later be turned into a memorial, describing such proposals as "premature and wicked" and "an act of cruelty."

He said families had reached out to him saying they want the bodies of their loved ones, even if all that remain are bones, to bring closure, adding that the government had not exhausted every possible option or sought international help with the expertise and equipment before talking about turning the site into a memorial. (Kaieteur News)

Fire on passenger ferry in the Philippines leaves at least 5 dead and dozens missing



Rescuers struggled on Thursday to get into a passenger ferry that had caught fire and burned overnight off the western Philippines, leaving five people dead and 86 missing, officials said.

By nightfall, search and rescue operations were halted but were to resume in the morning.

So far, 43 people have been rescued, coast guard spokeswoman Commodore Noemie Cayabyab said.

The ferry MV June Aster was afloat but listing off the town of Coron after the fire that started on Wednesday evening. Smoke still rose from the charred vessel by midday Thursday.

Cayabyab said authorities were still trying to confirm reports that two foreigners were onboard, checking the names on the manifest and coordinating with local government officials

and the shipping company on the identities of the fatalities, survivors and missing.

According to the manifest, 134 people were onboard, 117 of them passengers and 17 crew. The vessel had a capacity to carry 306 passengers and 27 crew.

The 53-meter-long ferry had sailed from the capital of Manila and was near its destination of Coron in Palawan province when the fire was reported by the shipping company around 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, the coast guard said.

Rescuers have been trying to enter the ship but have encountered difficulty because of thick smoke. "Our objective now is to enter the ship, to check the situation so we can assess the situation," Cayabyab said.

Later on Thursday evening, search

and rescue operations were suspended and will resume in the morning, she added.

Cayabyab said it was unclear what caused the fire, which one survivor said may have begun in the cargo hold, and the coast guard was coordinating with the shipping company and maritime authorities to get more details.

The survivor reported "a loud explosion, then followed by smoke and fire," she added. "As per the testimony of the survivor, everything happened quickly; within seconds the fire spread."

A coast guard ship and high-speed response boats were joined in the search and rescue by a military vessel and other government boats, volunteers and fishermen. (AP)

Morocco and Spain joust over which will host 2030 World Cup final amid border crisis



Morocco and Spain are arguing over the right to host the 2030 World Cup final — with besieged FIFA boss Gianni Infantino hovering backstage.

FIFA has yet to officially announce which country will host the biggest match of the biggest event in soccer. And even though the 2026 edition just finished with Spain winning the title this summer, Moroccan and Spanish officials are staking their claim on the next final.

The tussle over the soccer match also comes with Spain still reeling from a massive border crossing by tens of thousands of migrants who pushed through the frontier from Morocco into the north African Spanish enclave in late July.

The head of Moroccan soccer boasted that his country had it locked up on Thursday.

“The city of Benslimane will host the World Cup final. Hate it or love it, and if anyone wants to talk on top of that, let them talk,” Moroccan federation president Fouzi Lakjaa told a political rally.

“The city is Benslimane, the Hassan

II stadium is the stadium, and I hope that Morocco will be playing it,” he added.

This week, the head of the Spanish soccer federation, Rafael Louzán, insisted it was Spain that deserved the game, while acknowledging that it has not been guaranteed that honor.

“We all signed to accept the candidacy ... it’s too bad that, regarding the final, it wasn’t made clear, totally clear, where it is to be played,” Louzán said. “Spain, as world champion both in men’s and women’s soccer, must host the final.”

European soccer officials believe that the sprawling, multi-nation 2030 event, which includes Portugal and even a handful of games in South America, should be considered a European event with the final on the continent.

In a request for comment by the Associated Press on Thursday, FIFA said its decision will be made “in due course.”

The dispute over the final comes with Infantino under intense pressure after UEFA, the umbrella organiza-

tion of European soccer federations, led a successful revolt to scuttle his plan to sell stakes in the World Cup.

By contrast, six Arab nation federations, including Morocco’s, have backed him since that fiasco.

The King Hassan II Stadium near Casablanca is being built in Benslimane, on the outskirts of Casablanca. It is planned to seat 115,000 spectators. Spain can offer the home stadiums of Real Madrid or Barcelona as potential sites for the final.

Infantino has recently made two trips to Morocco, meeting with King Mohammed VI during annual celebrations of his ascent to the throne in July and then holding a FIFA crisis meeting there in August.

When confirmed three years ago, the joint candidacy between Spain, Portugal and Morocco looked like a perfect event to bridge Europe and Africa and strengthen bonds between the western Mediterranean neighbors.

But the dispute over the final comes with diplomatic tensions between Madrid and Rabat already frayed over who was responsible when tens of thousands of mostly Moroccans driven by posts on social media pushed into the small Spanish enclave of Ceuta that borders Morocco. Spain’s prime minister said 140 people died in the crossing.

Spain’s government has been under political pressure at home to get tough on Morocco, which it has said acted in good faith in the border crisis. Spanish police assessments couldn’t rule out complicity by Moroccan security forces but said that it was unlikely the Moroccan government had intentionally orchestrated it. (AP)

Trump says Iran war 'will end immediately' after US midterm elections

United States President Donald Trump has offered his latest prediction for concluding the war in Iran, indicating that an end date could come after the upcoming US midterm elections.

"This war will end immediately after our election," Trump told reporters on Wednesday before boarding Air Force One for a trip to Dallas, Texas.

Trump claimed the Iranian government was stalling an end to the war in order to secure a more favourable political environment in the US.

The Democratic Party is angling to take control of one or both chambers of Congress in the November 3 midterms. Currently, Trump's Republican Party maintains slim majorities in both.

"They're desperate to try and affect the election so that we can get a nice, weak group of people in there," Trump said of Iran's strategy for the legislative elections.

He suggested that Iran is counting on Democrats to "leave them alone and let them have their nuclear weapon".

"All they want is a nuclear weapon, and if they had a nuclear weapon, the whole world is in deep trouble," Trump said of Iran.

When the war against Iran began on February 28, the country's nuclear programme was a key justification that the US and Israel cited for launching hostilities. Trump and his officials claimed that Iran posed an "imminent" threat to the US and its allies.

Iran, however, has long denied seeking a nuclear weapon, instead arguing its uranium enrichment is for civilian power purposes only.

US intelligence reports have also cast doubt on whether Iran was building a nuclear weapon, though concerns have been raised over its levels of enrichment.

Negotiations about Iran's nuclear energy programme were ongoing at the time of the war's launch, and the issue has repeatedly cropped up in ceasefire negotiations in the six months since.



Trump had previously withdrawn from a 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), that would have restricted the amount of uranium Iran was allowed to enrich.

When asked on Wednesday whether the US would restart talks with Iranians on a nuclear agreement, the president suggested his ambitions were larger.

"I'm doing much more than a nuclear deal. There's a lot more than nuclear," Trump said.

But he also indicated that negotiations with Iran were not a top priority for the US government.

"We're not looking for it, to be honest," Trump said. "Originally, I wanted to make a deal. We're so far down the line. They have very little country left right now."

Trump's comments follow remarks from US Energy Secretary Chris Wright, who told ABC News on Sunday "there may not" be a nuclear deal.

Wright suggested instead that the US may continue to launch strikes to weaken Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

The US already carried out targeted strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities during the 12-day war between Iran and Israel in June 2025. Trump at the time said those strikes "obliterated" Iran's nuclear programme.

Negotiations with Iran have floundered in recent months, and the Trump administration has continued to downplay the conflict ahead of the midterm elections.

The war is widely unpopular in the US. A poll last month found that only 31 percent of Americans support the conflict, down from 37 percent in March.

On Wednesday, oil prices rose above \$100 a barrel amid renewed US-Iran hostilities, threatening to further increase costs for consumers around the world.

The US military said it struck five Iranian tankers on Tuesday in response to attempted missile attacks on a US Navy warship.

On Wednesday, Trump said more US strikes would follow: "You're going to see a lot more." (Al Jazeera)

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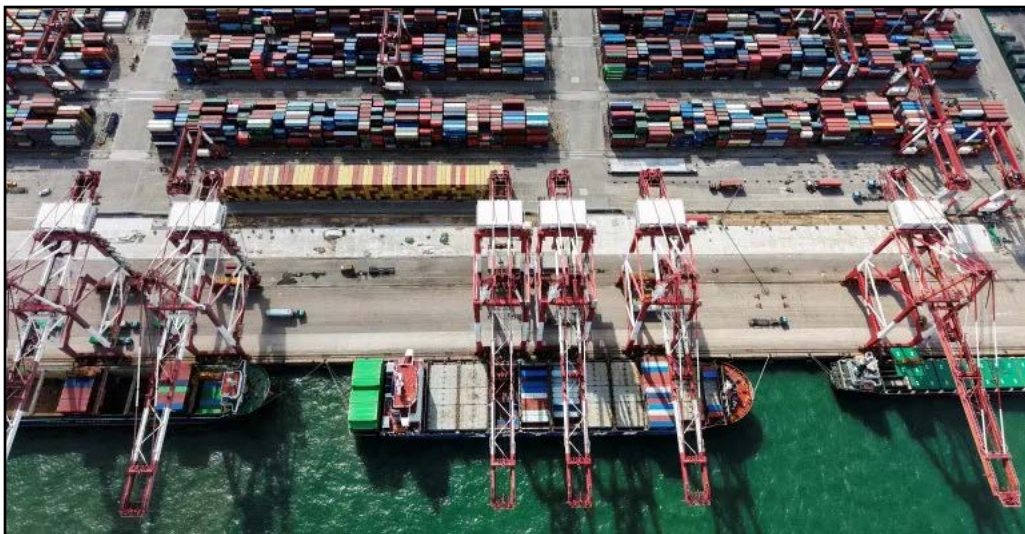
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At least 25 dead after cargo ship catches fire in China



At least 25 people have died after a foreign-flagged cargo ship caught fire while docked in a Chinese port, state media reported.

Of the 42 people on board, 12 were safely evacuated, while five were hospitalised with injuries and were in stable condition, state broadcaster CCTV reported on Thursday.

State news agency Xinhua said the fire broke out at about 11:15am (03:15 GMT) while the ship was docked for repairs at the Beihai Shipbuilding Company at the port of Qingdao, a major shipping hub on the northeastern Chinese coast.

It was unclear what had caused the fire or whether it had been extinguished.

A photo released by Xinhua identified the ship as the Ocean Melody, which sails under a Liberian flag, according to the public vessel-tracking website VesselFinder.

President Xi Jinping called for urgent search-and-rescue operations.

He “stressed the need to urgently search for missing persons ... and strictly hold those responsible to

account”, Xinhua reported.

Premier Li Qiang called for the search and rescue of “trapped” people, and for those injured to receive medical treatment.

He also urged authorities to “strictly prevent secondary disasters”.

Xi said “all regions and relevant departments must draw profound lessons from this incident, thoroughly investigate and rectify all types of fire hazards.” (Al Jazeera)



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All applications must be submitted to the Admin Office by Friday 18th September 2026.



Sports News

Business football league continues this weekend

The 2026 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship will resume with the second round of matches this weekend.

Twenty-eight (28) teams are battling for supremacy in this year's competition, which will continue with triple headers across four venues in Antigua on Saturday.

Matches at all four venues will be played simultaneously at 5 pm, 6:15 pm, and 7:30 pm in the competition in which the 28 teams are divided into four groups to engage in round-robin pool play in the preliminary stage.

Reigning champions, APUA Telecoms, will continue their title defense in a Group 2 clash against West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) Oilers at Radio Range in Ottos at 6:15 pm.

National Housing Development (NHD) Demolition Squad will face Postal Services in a Group 1 affair at 5 pm, and Galley Bay Ballers will meet Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) in a Group 2 match at 7:30 pm.

At the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park, the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) and the Jolly Harbour Stingers will meet in a Group 3 affair at 5 pm.

Public Works Asphalt will take on the Department of Immigration in another Group 3 match at 6:15 pm, and the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) will oppose Cocos Hotel in a Group 4 encounter at 7:30 pm.

At Golden Grove, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTA) will take Jumby Bay Resort in a Group 1 encounter at 5 pm.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Frigate Bird FC will challenge Blue Waters Hotel in another Group 1 affair at 6:15 pm, and the 2024 third-place finishers Sandals will tackle National Housing Development (NHD) Legends in a Group 2 match at 7:30



Hermitage Bay Strikers

pm.

In a triple-header at the Fort Road playing field, Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors will face National Housing Development (NHD) Full Experience in a Group 3 affair at 5 pm.

The 2024 champions, Hermitage Bay Strikers, which finished third last year, will oppose Public Works Department FC in a Group 4 encounter at 6:15 pm.

The Royalton Chic Hotel will clash with KOSCAB Powerade FC in another Group 4 match at 7:30 pm.




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Simmons joins Gloucestershire on loan, plans to sign two-year contract



Che Simmons

LONDON, England – Barbadian fast bowler Che Simmons has made the switch from Warwickshire to Gloucestershire for the remainder of the 2026 County Championship.

The 22-year-old pacer is however, expected to join Gloucestershire on a full-time basis ahead of the 2027 season on a two-year contract. The announcement was made by the club over the weekend on its social media pages.

Simmons gained valuable experience while featuring for Warwickshire in Division One of the County Championship, where in seven innings he claimed 10 wickets, including an impressive three-wicket haul on his debut against Essex in 2024. He said he was eagerly looking forward to his newest challenge.

“I’m very excited to be joining

Gloucestershire. It’s a fresh challenge for me and one I’m really looking forward to embracing. The opportunity to play regular first-team cricket was a big factor in my decision.

“I’m excited to get started, work hard with the coaches and my new teammates, and hopefully contribute to the team’s success across all formats. I feel this is a great opportunity for the next stage of my development, and I can’t wait to get out there and play in front of the Gloucestershire supporters,” Simmons said.

“I’m looking forward to getting to know everyone at the club and making some great memories along the way.”

Simmons represented Barbados at the Under-15 level and first came to

prominence after taking all 10 wickets in an innings while playing for the Franklyn Stephenson Academy.

He holds a British passport and is eligible to represent England through residency qualifications, adding further excitement to the potential of one of the county game’s brightest emerging fast bowlers.

Gloucestershire Director of Cricket, Jon Lewis, believes Simmons has all the attributes to make a significant impact at Seat Unique Stadium.

“We’re really excited to bring Che to Gloucestershire. He’s a hugely talented young cricketer with a very high ceiling, and while he’s played a lot of cricket in Warwickshire’s second team, we felt this was an opportunity for him to take the next step and showcase his abilities at first-team level.

“We see him as someone who can make a real difference to our squad. He’s a genuine athlete, bowls with good pace, and offers a real point of difference with the ball. He’s also a very clean striker of the ball, which adds another dimension to his game,” Lewis said.

“Most importantly, he’s a brilliant young person with enormous potential, and we’re delighted he’s chosen to continue his development with Gloucestershire. I’m looking forward to getting to know him better, working closely with him, and helping him fulfil that potential.”

US women storm past Hungary to reach FIBA World Cup semifinals



United States of America's Angel Reese goes for a shot in front of Hungary's Panka Dul during the Women's Basketball World Cup quarterfinal match at the FIBA World Cup in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026. (AP)

BERLIN (AP) — Napheesa Collier scored 19 points and the USA routed Hungary 108-56 to advance to the semifinals of the women's FIBA World Cup in Germany on Thursday.

The USA will play the winner of the Spain-Australia game on Saturday in the medal round. France played China and Belgium played host Germany in the other quarterfinal matchups.

The Americans have now won 34 consecutive games in the tournament dating to a loss to Russia in the 2006 World Cup semifinals. The USA has made every medal round since 1983 when the format changed to have medal rounds.

It was a record-breaking performance for the USA. The 108 points was the most by any team ever in

a quarterfinal. The USA had 31 assists, again the most in this round.

"When that ball is moving, we want to get the best possible shot," said Kahleah Copper, who had 10 points.

Copper said the players were always looking to turn good scoring opportunities into great ones. The Americans did just that. The USA was off and running early against Hungary, jumping out to a 36-12 lead after the first quarter.

The Americans were constantly pounding the ball inside and converting turnovers into easy layups. Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese showed their growing chemistry on the court, finishing the quarter with a nifty pick and roll just before the buzzer. Collier had 10 points in the first 10 minutes.

The offense was sizzling early on

as the Americans hit 20 of their first 26 shots (77%), including five of six 3-point attempts to race to a 50-18 lead with 6 minutes left in the first half. The Americans led 59-30 at the break — the highest scoring first half in team history in a knockout game at the event according to FIBA.

The Americans got a little scare when Sonia Citron had to leave in the third quarter when she was hit in the nose by a Hungary player's hand by accident. Citron returned to start the fourth quarter.

Clark finished with 10 points and nine assists, just missing out on her second double-double of the tournament.

The USA was also solid on defense. They contained Hungary's top scorer Dorka Juhasz, who plays for the Minnesota Lynx. She came into the game averaging 15.3 points and 11 rebounds in the tournament.

She missed her first seven shots and didn't get her first basket until 2:26 was left in the half. She finished the game with two points on 1 of 12 shooting.

Hungary came away with its best finish ever in the World Cup by reaching the quarterfinals for the first time. Hungary was fifth in the 1957 tournament, but back then, it was a round robin with no medal rounds.

Zverev reaches US Open semifinals and will face Khachanov

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexander Zverev's rocky road to start the US Open turned into smooth sailing to the semifinals.

The No. 1 seed beat Botic van de Zandschulp 6-2, 7-5, 6-1 on Wednesday night, putting him into the final four of every Grand Slam tournament this season.

The French Open champion and Wimbledon runner-up will play Friday against Karen Khachanov, while Americans Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe meet in the other semifinal.

Zverev became the first men's No. 1 seed to play five-set matches in each of the first two rounds of a major in the Open era, which began in 1968. But he won his last three matches in straight sets and is the only man to reach all four major semis this year.

After playing more than 4 1/2 hours in each of the first two rounds, Zverev hasn't been on the court more than 2 1/2 in his last three matches.

"In other tournaments I would have been out in the first round but here I can fight back and play best-of-five, play 4 1/2 hours and somehow win the match and somehow get into the tournament," Zverev said.

"And then I start playing better



Alexander Zverev of Germany reacts after winning a point against Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands during the quarterfinal round of the US Open tennis championships in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026. (AP)

throughout the tournament and definitely happy to be in the semifinals here, but of course I want to go further."

He went to the final in 2020 but blew a two-set lead against Dominic Thiem. That was the closest he would come to a major title until his victory this year at Roland Garros and the German now is 23-2 in Grand Slam matches this season.

Khachanov got at least to the third round of every major this year and

this time has gone three rounds further. He was prepared to go through a tough test Wednesday, but Alexander Blockx's body wasn't up for one.

Blockx stopped playing in the third set because of injuries to his leg, ribs and back, sending Khachanov to his third Grand Slam semifinal.

Khachanov won the first two sets 6-2 and 7-5, and the No. 28 seed from Belgium decided it was time to stop after Khachanov broke his serve to take a 3-2 lead in the third.

Khachanov is seeking his first major final. The Russian got to the semifinals of the US Open in 2022 and the Australian Open in 2023.

Khachanov was unseeded in a Grand Slam tournament for the first time since 2018 after a strange season. He reached at least the third round of all four majors for the first time but is just 10-15 in other events, with losses in the opening rounds of all three hard-court events before coming to New York.

Blockx said he nearly stopped in his last match because of his injuries. As he got treatment for multiple body parts Wednesday, he said he was neither upset nor angry.

Con.t from page 28

Phillips and Shai Hope in consecutive overs.

Suddenly, the Kings had their tails up and renewed belief that they could keep their season alive. Roston Chase then struck again, leaving the Warriors four wickets down and needing 48 runs from the final five overs.

A nervous tension swept through Providence Stadium as the Kings sensed a remarkable fightback. But Quentin Sampson had other ideas.

The young batter exploded into action, launching Chase for two sixes and a four from three consecutive deliveries to release the pressure and swing the momentum firmly back in the Warriors' favour. Sampson's astonishing knock completed the Warriors' comeback and secured a crucial victory.

The result sends the Warriors back to the top of the CPL standings, with two matches still in hand, while the Kings must now watch the remaining results closely and hope they fall their way to

clinch one of the two remaining spots in the playoffs.

The defeat brought the Kings' preliminary-round campaign to a close with eight points from four wins in 10 round-robin matches, leaving them in fourth place.

The Kings will now have to wait on results elsewhere to determine whether they can hold on to a playoff spot, which is allocated to the top four finishers in the round-robin preliminary stage.

Amazon Warriors beat Kings to secure top spot in CPL

After suffering their first loss in a humiliating 65-run defeat to the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons on Tuesday, the Guyana Amazon Warriors returned to winning ways with a hard-fought four-wicket victory over the St. Lucia Kings at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) on Wednesday night.

It allows the Amazon Warriors to claim their seventh win in eight matches and move to the top of the standings in the seven-team round-robin preliminary stage with an unassailable 14 points.

After dismissing the St. Lucia Kings, who won the toss and opted to bat, for 119 in 18.5 overs, the Guyana Amazon Warriors completed victory by scoring 122 for six in 18.3 overs.

The Kings were dismantled by a brilliant spell from Warriors captain and leg-spinner Imran Tahir, who claimed five for 17, while off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz made an immediate impact on his CPL debut for the Warriors by grabbing three for 13.

Opener Kamil Pooran topscored for the Kings, smashing 43 off 35 balls, including six fours and two sixes. But only two other batsmen managed to reach double-figures for the Kings. All-rounder Obus Pienaar struck 35 off 28 balls, including four fours and a six, and John Campbell got 12 off eight balls, striking two boundaries.

In reply, the Amazon Warriors batted cautiously in reaching their victory target. Quentin Sampson slammed an unbeaten 37 off 11 balls, smashing five sixes and a four. Opener Glen Phillips also hit 37 off 40 balls, including two



Guyana Amazon Warriors' Captain Imran Tahir relishes his five-wicket haul against the St. Lucia Kings during their CPL match at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. (CPLT20)

fours and a six.

Shai Hope contributed 21 off 31 balls without hitting a boundary, and Shimron Hetmyer chipped in with 14 off 13 balls. Kings' captain and off-spinner Roston Chase picked up three for 34.

Opting to bat first, perhaps taking note of how the Antigua & Barbuda Falcons had attacked the Warriors the previous night, the Kings adopted a more cautious approach during the Power Play. Kamil Pooran, however, provided the early impetus with a positive start.

Dwaine Pretorius made the breakthrough for the Warriors, dismissing opener Tim Seifert for four, but the Kings still reached 51 for one at the

end of the Power Play.

However, getting through the opening phase against the Warriors' spin attack has proved one of the toughest challenges of CPL 2026. With Mohammad Nabi having departed the attack, Mehidy Hasan Miraz joined Tahir, and the transition was seamless.

Miraz picked up where Nabi had left off, as the pair ripped through the Kings' top and middle order, completely dismantling the platform they had built.

Miraz got the ball rolling by dismissing John Campbell in his first CPL over for the Warriors, before Tahir went on to wreck the Kings' innings. The veteran leg-spinner had the ball on a string, claiming the prized wickets of Kamil Pooran and Roston Chase for one.

Overs 11 and 12 brought another wicket apiece for Miraz and Tahir as the Kings' innings unravelled in emphatic fashion. Obus Pienaar offered some late resistance before falling to Romario Shepherd as the final wicket.

In reply, the Warriors were determined to take their time and avoid falling victim to the demons of the pitch. Having been undone by a brilliant bowling display from the Falcons the previous night, they adopted a cautious approach and reached just 23 for one at the end of the Power Play.

The plan appeared to be working as the Warriors patiently paced their chase after the strategic timeout. But the Kings found a way back when their two Sri Lankan difference-makers, Charith Asalanka and Maheesh Theekshana, combined to dismiss Glenn

Con.t on page 27