

PM Echoes IMF's Criticism Of Banking Sector

Story on page 2



Senator Angelica O'Donoghue (right) and Deputy Clerk to Parliament Ondell Constant (left)

PM Echoes IMF's Criticism Of Banking Sector

Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Gaston Browne, is again voicing his concern over the lending policies of the domestic banking sector, accusing it of being 'overly conservative' in its lending policies.

Speaking on Saturday's Browne and Browne show, PM Browne was referencing the latest IMF Article 4 assessment of the Antigua and Barbuda economy where it noted that the local banking sector remains liquid, while lending to businesses had declined.

"Businesses have reported limited access to finance as a key obstacle. Bank credit to the private sector has declined substantially as a share of GDP since the 2008–09 global financial crisis (GFC). But banks cite a lack of bankable projects and invest a large share of their assets abroad," the IMF reported noted.

"Staff saw the launch in Antigua and Barbuda of the regional credit bureau for banks—and the planned inclusion of credit unions—as a welcome step towards bridging this gap, by reducing informational asymmetries between lenders and borrowers and facilitating broader access to credit, for example by enabling lenders' use of entrepreneur-individuals' credit scores as proxies for their business credit-worthiness."

According to PM Browne if left to the domestic banking sector, there would be no growth in the economy as 'they are not stepping up to the plate'. "They are not making enough loans available; if fact, credit to the business sector increased by only three percent and domestic credit remains stagnant.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the Browne and Browne show

So, our banks to some extent, are failing us as they rely almost exclusively on fees in order to turn large profits and I want to call upon them to review their policies and to be a bit more responsive to the credit needs of the people of this country," he stated.

The prime minister appealed to the banking sector to be more aggressive to lending to build new homes as invariably these loans are usually low-risk as no one wants to ever lose his/her home and would do anything to make the mortgage payments.

He even suggested that the banks should get together and offer the government up to \$100 million to construct houses knowing that this would be relatively safe investment for the banks.

He also cautioned the banks that should they continue this level of conservative policies any new entrants into the market could potentially see them losing market share.



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Zero-Tolerance For Non-Nationals Who Are Involved In Heinous Crimes

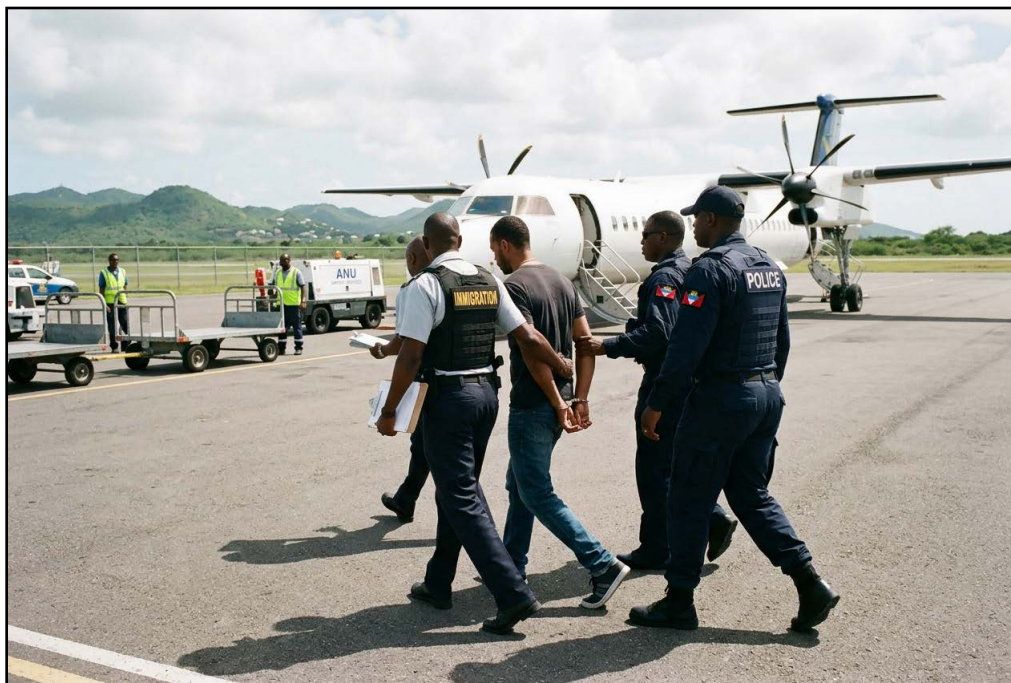
Prime Minister Gaston Browne has announced a 'Zero-Tolerance' policy towards non-nationals who are caught for involving in violent crimes here in Antigua and Barbuda.

Under this new policy, such 'criminal element' will be deported forthwith from Antigua and Barbuda following their prison sentences.

The prime minister was speaking Saturday on the Browne and Browne show where he noted that one of the two suspects involved in the daring daylight robbery at Buckley Line Gas Station was a Jamaican national.

He noted that the guns that were used in that crime were not the usually types of firearms used in other criminal activities in Antigua and Barbuda and he noted that it was a known fact that Jamaican criminal elements are involved in criminal activities in the country.

Already, he noted that several have been deported this year and he is warning that those who are involved



in criminal activities will be found and deported.

PM Browne indicated that Antigua and Barbuda had been extremely generous in allowing thousands of Jamaicans into the country over the years

and while the majority of Jamaicans are law-abiding, there are criminal elements who are coming to the country and are getting involved in criminal activities.

This he noted must end.

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The Region Honours Its Own: UWI Names 13 Honorary Graduands for 2026

The University of the West Indies has named 13 honourees for its 2026 graduation ceremonies. The award of these prestigious honorary degrees continues the university's long-standing tradition of celebrating the region's most notable luminaries for their contributions to Caribbean life and development. This year's awardees boast outstanding careers spanning journalism and media, ministry and community service, diplomacy, medicine, agricultural development, law and public service, culture, sport, and music.

Approved by the University Council, the honorary degrees will be conferred at The UWI's 2026 graduation ceremonies carded to take place between October 10 and November 14, 2026.

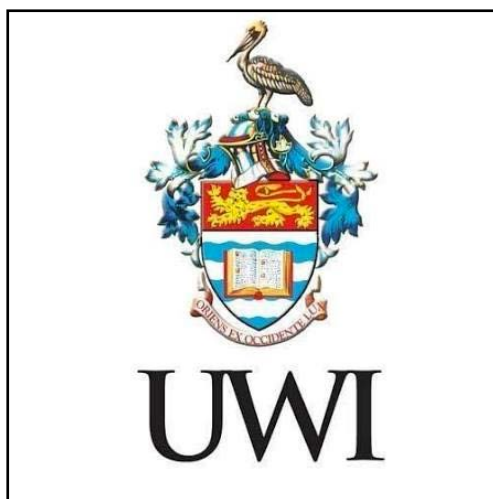
The schedule for the 2026 ceremonies and the list of honorary graduands follows.

Five Islands Campus – October 10

- **Mr. Don Rojas** of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for his contribution to Caribbean and American Media – *Doctor of Letters (DLitt)*
- **Ms. Thea LaFond** of Dominica for her contribution to Sport – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*

Cave Hill Campus – October 17

- **Mr. Doug E. Fresh** of the United



States of America for his contribution to the arts through Hip-Hop music – *Doctor of Letters (DLitt)*

- **Reverend Dr. Lucille Onita Baird, M.B.E., J.P.** of Barbados for her contribution to the church, community leadership and social commentary – *Doctor of Letters (DLitt)*

St. Augustine Campus – October 22 to 24

- **Ambassador Colin Granderson** of Trinidad and Tobago for his work in diplomacy – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*
- **Professor Shaneeta Johnson** of The Bahamas for her contribution to the development of surgical sciences and health care – *Doctor of Science (DSc)*

- **Mr. Winston R. Rudder** of Trinidad and Tobago for his contribution to Agricultural development, public service, food and sustainable development – *Doctor of Science (DSc)*

Mona Campus – November 5 to 7

- **Mr. Arnold Bertram** of Jamaica for his contribution to Caribbean scholarship and public advocacy – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*
- **Mr. Damian Marley** of Jamaica for his contribution to culture – *Doctor of Letters (DLitt)*
- **Mrs. Dawn Robinson-Spence** of Jamaica for her contribution to culture – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*
- **Mr. Milton J. Samuda** of Jamaica for public service, advocacy and administration – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*

Global Campus – November 14

- **Mr. Melvin L. Claxton** of Antigua and Barbuda for his contribution to journalism – *Doctor of Letters (DLitt)*
- **Ms. René Baptiste CMG** of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for her contribution to governance, law and culture – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*



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Two-Member Team Represented Antigua and Barbuda At AI Workshop

A two-member team represented the Antigua and Barbuda parliament at the Caribbean Regional Workshop: “Applying AI and Digital Solutions to Modernize Parliamentary Practice,” that convened from September 12-13 at Florida International University in Miami, Florida.

Senator Angelica O’Donoghue and Deputy Clerk to Parliament Ondell Constant were the two Antigua and Barbuda representatives.

They joined 30 other parliamentary representatives from across the Caribbean, including clerks, Hansard officials, information technology specialists, communications professionals and other parliamentary officers. The workshop was hosted by the House Democracy Partnership of the United States House of Representatives, in collaboration with ParlAmericas and the POPVOX Foundation.

ParlAmericas works with legislatures across the Americas and the Caribbean to strengthen democratic institutions, parliamentary diplomacy and regional cooperation, with particular emphasis on inclusive, transparent and effective parliamentary governance.

The two-day workshop examined how Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies can strengthen legislative research, information management, institutional capacity, transparency and the overall efficiency of parliamentary operations.

A major focus was the Digital



Senator Angelica O’Donoghue (right) and Deputy Clerk to Parliament Ondell Constant (left)

Parliaments Project and ParlLink, an AI-powered platform developed to help parliaments digitize, manage and preserve legislative records. The platform can organize Bills, Hansards, minutes and other parliamentary documents, generate searchable information and allow authorized users to conduct AI-assisted research across parliamentary records.

Senator O’Donoghue said Antigua and Barbuda’s participation provided an important opportunity to examine how technological modernization can complement the country’s ongoing legislative development. “As both a communications professional and a Senator, I recognized the importance

of ensuring that as we modernize our legislation, we are also modernizing the information infrastructure that supports our Parliament. Technology is changing the way institutions operate, communicate, preserve information and serve the public, and our Parliament cannot afford to be left behind. I was particularly interested in what we could take from this workshop and practically adapt to the realities and needs of Antigua and Barbuda.”

Deputy Clerk to Parliament Ondell Constant said the workshop also presented an opportunity to identify practical solutions that can strengthen the day-to-day administration of Parliament.

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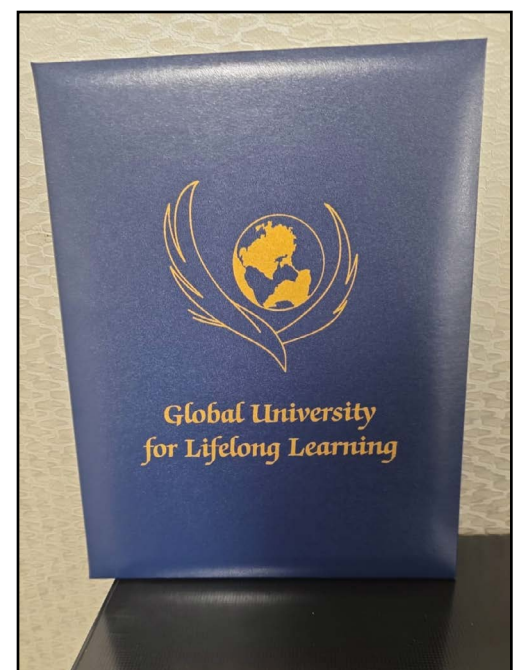
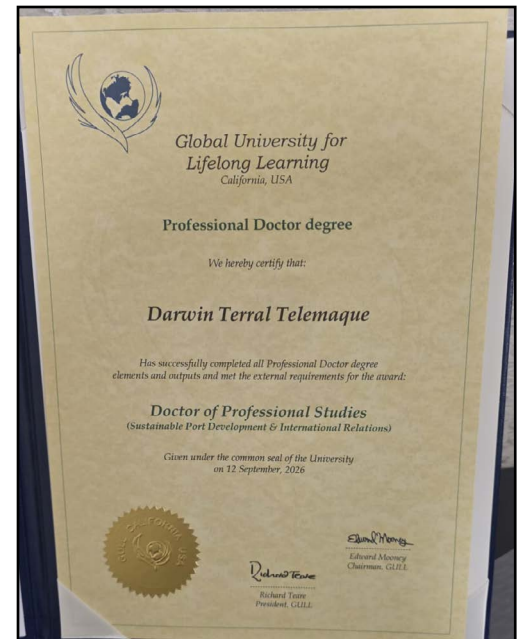


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Port Manager Telemaque Completes Doctor of Professional Studies Degree



Port Manager at the Antigua Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque, has successfully completed his programme of study leading to a Doctor of Professional Studies Degree in Sustainable Port Development and International Relations.

“After 3 years of focused effort I am now the holder of a Doctor of Professional Studies Degree in “Sustainable Port Development and International Relations” from the Global University of Life-long Learning (GULL). The ceremony took place in Miami at 4:00

pm on Saturday,” Telemaque himself announced in a social media post.

He indicated that on his return to Antigua he will provide additional information on his programme of study.

GARD Center Participates In Nature-Based Solution To Environmental Degradation

From 2025–2028, the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARD Center) is a partner and LLA champion collaborating with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to contribute to implementation of the Generating Ambition for Locally Led Adaptation (GA-LLA) programme in the Caribbean, specifically in Antigua and Barbuda.

The GA-LLA programme seeks to advance transformative actions that build resilience in communities most affected by the climate crisis.

Under the Adaptation Actions component of the GA-LLA programme, the GARD Center will lead the implementation of a practical on-the-ground project - “Youth and Community-Led Vetiver Floating-Beds for Climate Adaptation and Livelihoods in Antigua,” “focused on floating vetiver grass-beds to enhance climate adaptation, watershed/pond resilience, and livelihood opportunities.



Photo credit: thehindu.com

This nature-based solution supports ecosystem-based adaptation by drawing on vetiver’s natural ability to improve water quality, stabilise soils, and enhance biodiversity, offering a low-cost and sustainable method for restoring degraded ponds in the target communities.

The initiative also promotes strong local ownership by engaging local communities in environmental management and climate-smart livelihood activities, including vetiver-based products and eco-tourism.

This project builds directly on the GARD Center’s experience in sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, and community-based climate solutions. In the absence of this intervention, these ponds and their surrounding communities’ risk ongoing environmental decline, including persistent water quality issues, erosion, invasive species, and increased public health risks, as well as missed opportunities for community empowerment and green economic development.

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Alleged Perpetrators of Gas Station Armed Robbery Have Been Remanded To Prison

The two men believed to have been involved in the daring armed robbery at the Buckley Line Gas Station on September 4, have been remanded in His Majesty's Prison following a court appearance on Friday.

The accused, 35-year-old Deon Smith and 19-year-old Jermain Joseph, both of Bathlodge, appeared before Magistrate Thomas on Friday, September 11, and were remanded to prison until their next court appearance on November 18.

Smith and Joseph were jointly charged in connection with the robbery, during which approximately EC\$6,000 was reportedly stolen. The offence occurred at approximately 3:45 p.m. on Friday, September 4.

Police investigations into the matter remain ongoing.

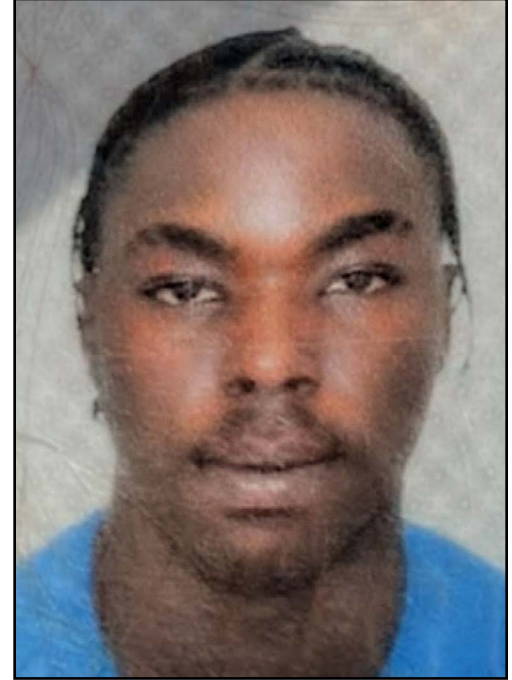
The Police Administration wishes to express its sincere gratitude to members of the public for their continued



Deon Smith

cooperation and assistance in supporting the efforts of the police.

The administration further encourages members of the public to continue



Jermain Joseph

sharing information that may assist ongoing investigations and assures that all information received will be treated with the strictest confidence.

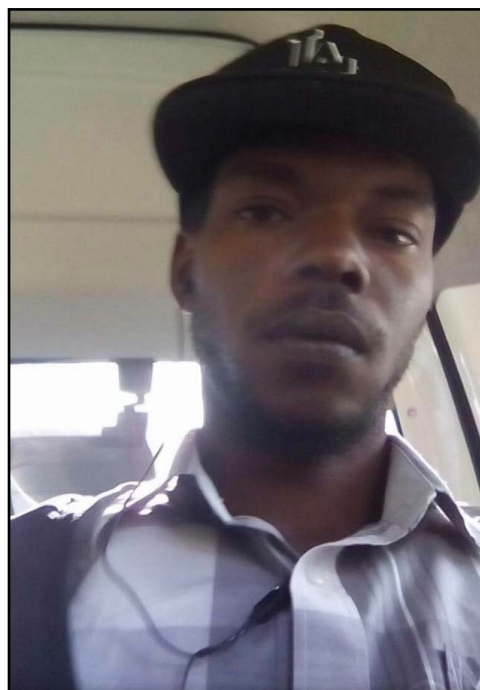
Police Investigate Homicide of Swetes Resident

The Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the shooting death of 39-year-old Kerew Richards of St. Ann's Road, Swetes Village.

At approximately 9:50 p.m. on Friday, September 11, officers attached to the All Saints Police Station responded to a report where several explosions, which sounded like gunshots were heard in the St. Ann's Road area.

On arrival at the scene, the police discovered Richards lying motionless on the verandah of a residence with what appeared to be multiple gunshot wounds about his body.

It was reported that shortly after incident, an unknown assailant wearing a grey hoodie was seen running from the area in an easterly direction.



A medical doctor arrived at the scene and pronounced him dead shortly after midnight on Saturday, September 12.

The Police Administration is appealing to anyone who was in the surrounding areas at the time of the incident and may have seen or heard anything suspicious to come forward.

Anyone with information that may assist investigators in solving this homicide is urged to contact the Serious Crimes Unit/CID at 462-3913 or 462-3914, Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477), or the nearest police station.

The Police Administration extends sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of the deceased.

30-Year Old Man Charged In Connection With Break-in At Sunny Limited

The police have arrested and charged 30-year-old Marcus Gilpin of Old Parham Road in connection with a break-in at Sunny Limited on Long Street.

Gilpin is accused of breaking into the business sometime between August 10 and 11, 2026, and stealing a substantial quantity of merchandise and other property.

Among the items reportedly stolen were twenty five (25) pairs of Sneakers, Fifty (50) pieces of assorted clothing, Five (5) suitcases, Forty (40) speakers, Fifty (50) school bags, Thirty-six (36) pairs of socks, Twenty-five (25) pairs of short jeans, Fifty (50) pairs of long jeans pants, Thirty (30) pairs of adult slippers, Fifteen (15) pairs of children slippers, Ten (10) travelling bags, Twenty (20) Solar lights, Boxers, radios, a washing machine, refrigerator, card machine, children's personal-care products, and two DVR systems.

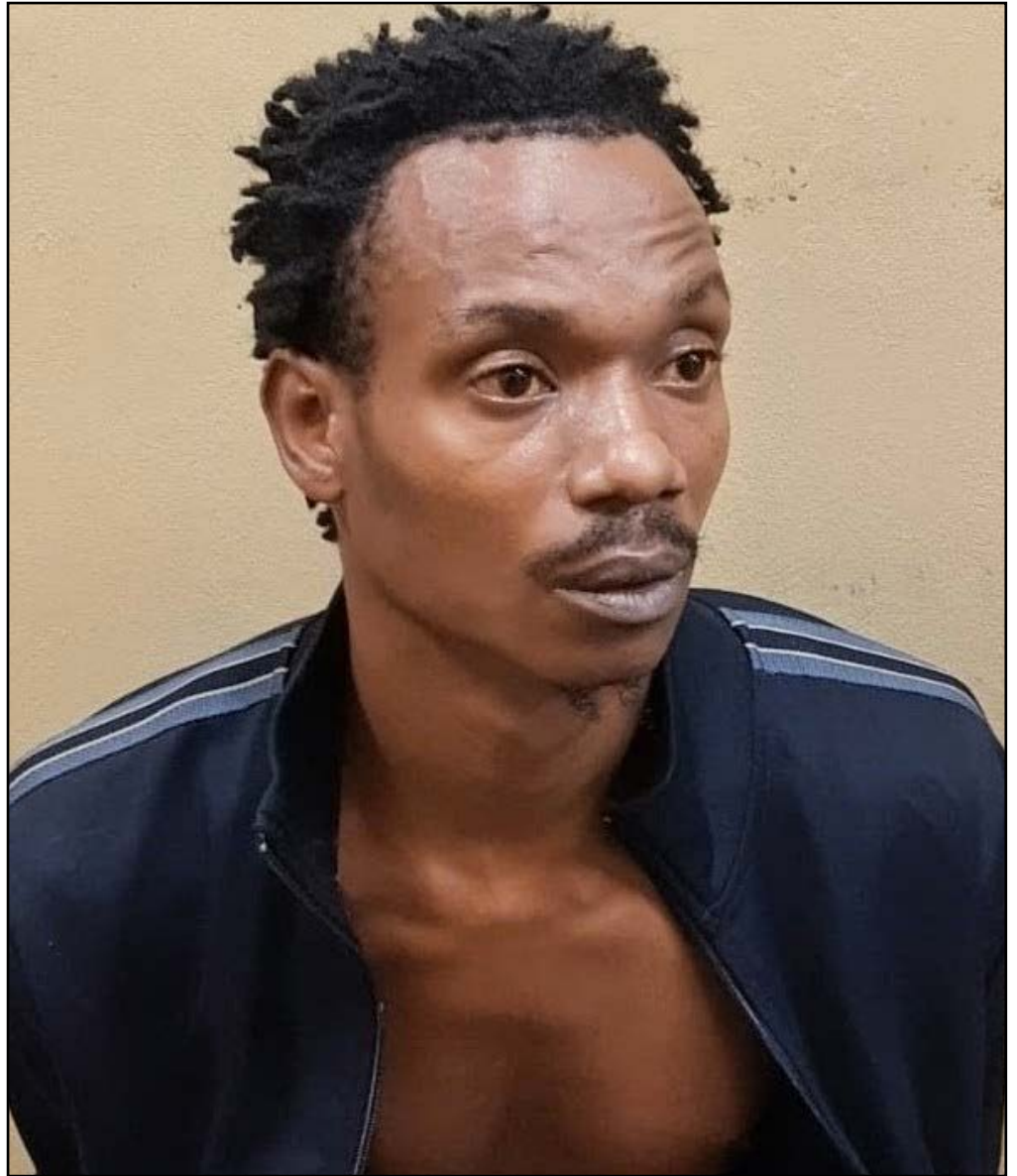
Gilpin is also accused of maliciously damaging the business' camera system, valued at approximately EC\$50,000.

The stolen and damaged property amounted to combined value of approximately EC\$103,201.

He has since been formally arrested and charged with Breaking and Larceny and Malicious Damage and is expected to appear before the court to answer to the charges on Monday, September 14.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues to encourage business owners and members of the public to report suspicious activities and provide any information that may assist with ongoing criminal investigations.

The Police Administration also expresses its appreciation to members of the public for their continued cooperation and support in the fight against crime.



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Roadworks Continue On All Saints Road

The Ministry of Works advises the general public that major infrastructure works will be carried out on All Saints Road (ASR), in the vicinity of LICS Limited.

Single-lane traffic will be implemented from 2:00 pm on Sunday 13th September 2026, until the completion of works. Flag persons will be in place to assist with traffic flow.

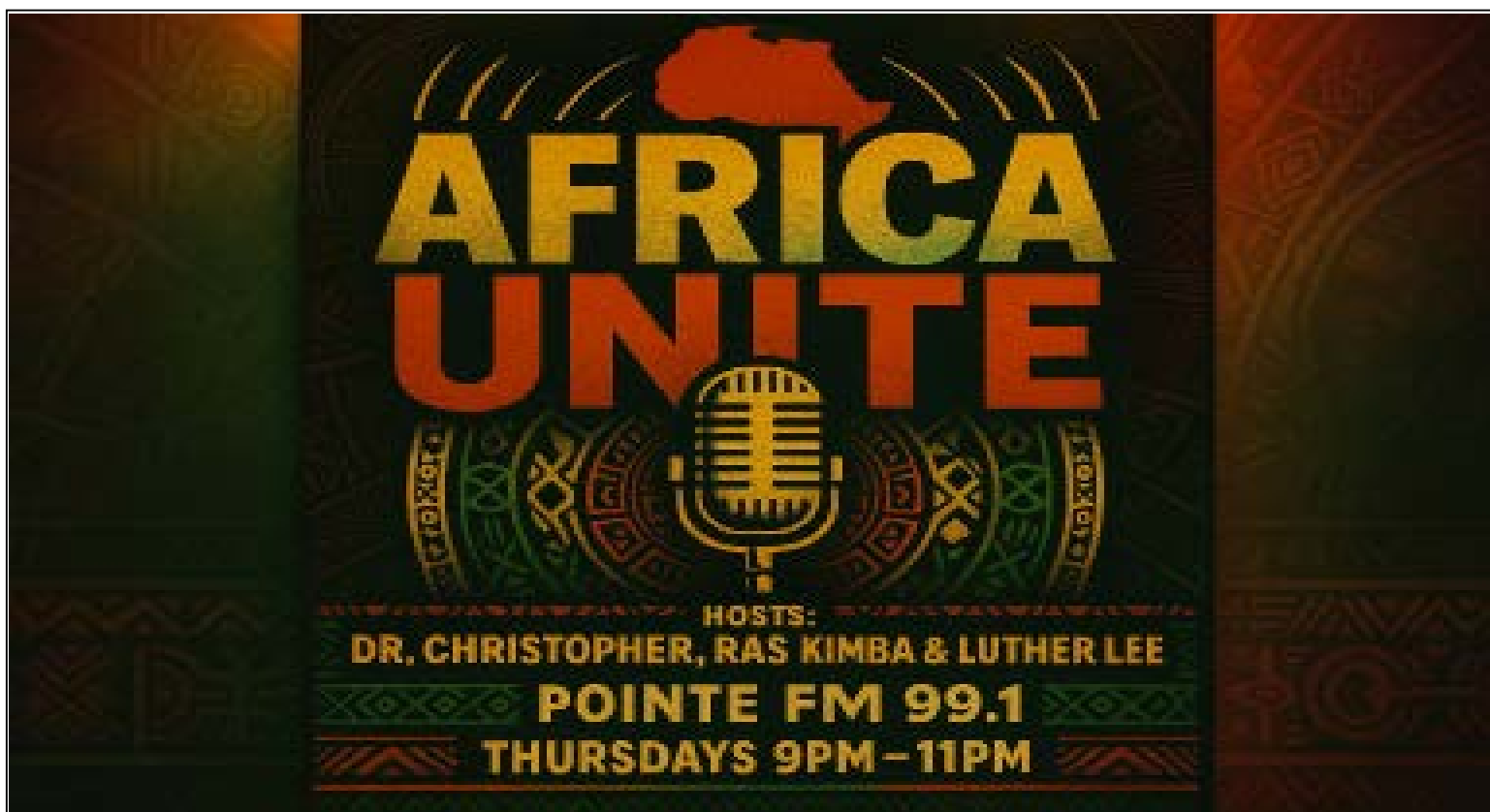
Signage along the route will guide commuters travelling in either direction. Local access will be given to residents in the vicinity of the work site.

Motorists are encouraged to follow all instructions to ensure a cautious and safe passageway, as heavy-duty equipment will be operating near the works.

All businesses should remain open.

The roadwork is part of the All Saints Road Project being carried out by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Stakeholders are asked to adjust their travel plans to allow for delays.





The poster features a vibrant background image of three Antigua Carnival dancers in elaborate costumes with large, colorful feathered headdresses. The central dancer is a woman in a gold and blue outfit, flanked by two men in similar attire. They are all smiling and dancing. The background is a mix of bright colors and abstract geometric shapes.

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Commentary

THE CARIBBEAN UNDER DIGITAL ATTACK: PROTECTING CITIZENS IN THE AGE OF CYBER FRAUD



Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

Across the Caribbean, the digital revolution that allows salaries, remittances and business payments to move across a screen in seconds has opened a dangerous door. Criminals can now reach households, businesses and public institutions from almost anywhere. Cyber fraud is no longer merely a technology problem. It is a matter of citizen security.

The Trump Administration deserves credit for recognising this reality. On March 6, 2026, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14390, "Combating Cybercrime, Fraud, and Predatory Schemes Against American Citizens." The Order addresses phishing, financial fraud, ransomware, impersonation, sextortion and other cyber-enabled crimes while strengthening coordination, enforcement and victim-restoration mechanisms where permitted by law.

For the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), and in particular its significant sub-group, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the lesson is timely: as finance becomes borderless, citizen protection must become more coordinated across

borders. The ACS and CARICOM need not replicate American capabilities. They should adapt the principle to Caribbean realities. When cybercrime threatens a family's savings, a child's safety, a business's survival or confidence in financial institutions, it has moved beyond cyber risk.

The CARICOM Cyber Security and Cybercrime Action Plan 2025 already provides a framework for resilience, legislation, capacity building, cooperation and incident response. The next step is a stronger citizen-protection mechanism built upon existing regional and national institutions, particularly CARICOM IMPACS.

The Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community, adopted in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, in 1997, also provides a Caribbean foundation. It affirms principles of personal security, property, dignity, information access, child protection, responsible governance and care for vulnerable groups. Technology has changed; the obligation to protect dignity, property and the vulnerable has not.

A pensioner deceived into transferring retirement savings, a child subjected to sextortion, or a business losing operating capital through fraudulent payment instructions has suffered real harm. An AI-generated impersonation can turn technological sophistication into personal loss. The measure of progress should be how effectively technology protects human welfare.

Caribbean central-bank data show how rapidly the financial environment is changing. In The Bahamas, retail clearing transactions reached approximately B\$10.4 billion in 2024. In Barbados, direct electron-

ic transfers increased by more than 700 per cent between 2013 and 2024. Belize recorded a 75.3 per cent increase in instant transfers in 2025, while Guyana recorded approximately G\$881.7 billion in electronic funds transfers.

These figures are not evidence of fraud. They demonstrate the scale of the digital financial space now requiring protection. Digitalisation itself is not the danger; the concern is that expanding infrastructure also creates opportunities for sophisticated fraud.

The Bank of Jamaica received 443 consumer complaints in 2025, with 87 recorded in the fraud-related category.

The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago reported that cybersecurity incidents more than doubled between 2023 and 2024, driven largely by phishing and business-email-compromise attacks. The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank reported phishing attacks against customers of two commercial banks between January 2023 and March 2024, with estimated losses of EC\$765,000 or more.

Suriname's 2025 Financial Stability Report identified fraud, phishing and card-skimming incidents. In Haiti, the Banque de la République d'Haïti linked digital payments with stronger consumer protection against fraud, cybercrime, identity theft and misuse of personal data.

The evidence points in one direction: Caribbean money is increasingly digital, and consumer protection must evolve alongside it.

CARICOM should establish a common Fraud Loss and Recovery Reporting Framework using agreed definitions for attempted fraud, successful fraud, funds intercepted, money recovered, victim reim-

Commentary

PAGE 15

bursements and major scam types. The region cannot effectively measure success until it can consistently measure loss.

A lean CARICOM Cyber Fraud and Citizen Protection Network, linked to CARICOM IMPACS, could connect national focal points, financial institutions, financial-intelligence authorities and law enforcement without creating another large bureaucracy.

CARICOM could begin with a six-month technical working group to agree definitions, identify national focal points and design rapid-response protocols before phased implementation.

Speed must be central. Cyber fraud has its own “golden hours.” The longer stolen money moves through accounts, platforms and jurisdictions, the harder recovery becomes. CARICOM should develop rapid-response protocols connecting citizens, financial institutions, law enforcement and financial-intelligence authorities, while respecting domestic law, privacy and due process. The objective is simple: move legitimate information at least as quickly as criminals move money.

The Trump Administration’s emphasis on victim restoration merits consideration. Where cybercrime proceeds are lawfully recovered, seized or forfeited, Caribbean jurisdictions should examine whether existing mechanisms can facilitate restitution to identifiable victims.

Public education must also be part of the defence. Awareness campaigns should be continuous, practical and targeted especially at elderly citizens, young people, small businesses and digital-payment users. A bank employee, teacher, journalist or family member may be the first to prevent a cybercrime or assist a victim.

Success should be measured by tangible human outcomes: faster in-

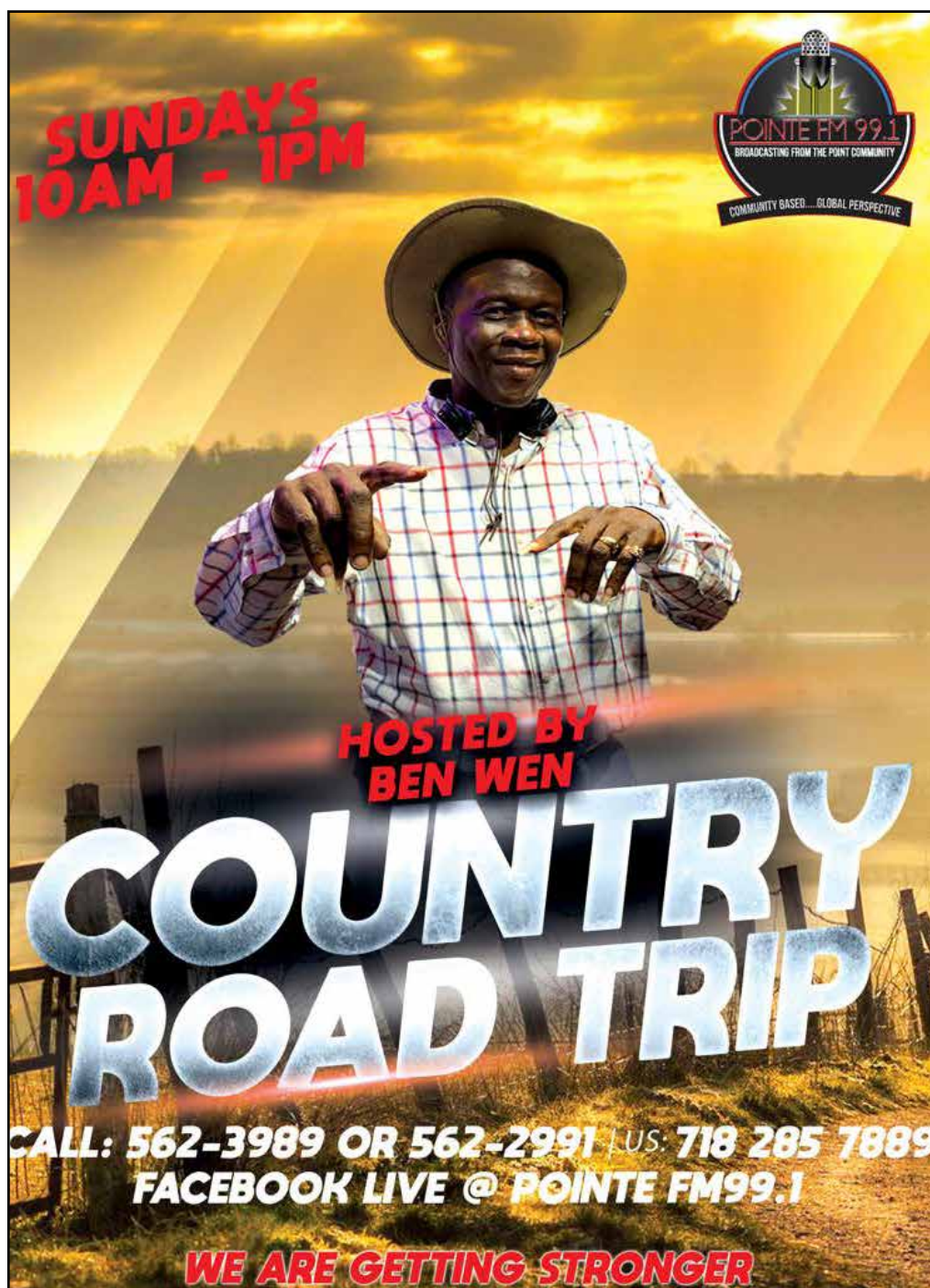
tervention, more stolen funds intercepted or recovered, more victims assisted, quicker warnings and fewer repeat attacks.

President Trump’s Executive Order reinforces a fundamental principle: the object of cybersecurity is not the protection of machines, but the protection of people. CARICOM can advance that principle through regional cooperation, respect for rights and institutions, protection of the vulnerable and prudent use of limited resources.

The region does not need to wait for a major crisis before building the systems required to protect its citizens. Technology should widen opportunity without widening vulnerability. Development and protection should advance together, and public policy should direct innovation, security and shared resources toward the greatest good for all.

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Feature

UWI Researchers Win World's Largest Education Prize for Transforming Early Childhood Development

Two University of the West Indies (The UWI) researchers have been named 2026 Yidan Prize laureates for Education Development. Widely regarded as the world's highest accolade in education, the award recognises over three decades of work that has transformed how we understand and support early childhood development globally.

Professor Susan P. Walker, Emeritus Professor of Nutrition at The UWI's Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR), and Dr Susan M. Chang-Lopez, Senior Lecturer at CAIHR, share the 2026 award with long-time collaborator Sally Grantham-McGregor, Emeritus Professor University College London.

Professor Grantham-McGregor worked at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) from 1967 and subsequently joined the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit, UWI. She left as professor in 1995. The trio were recognised for creating Reach Up, an evidence-based, scalable, early childhood intervention that has grown from a 1986 research study in Jamaica to a programme reaching hundreds of thousands of children from vulnerable homes across 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, and is currently scaling to reach 1.5 million in Brazil.

Announcing the laureates, Dorothy K. Gordon, Head of the Yidan Prize Judging Panel for Education Development,



Professor Susan P. Walker

said the winners "have reshaped global education" with some of the strongest empirical evidence demonstrating the connection between early stimulation and pre-formal school learning and lifelong attainment. Acknowledging that one major cause of lower development in children growing up in poverty is a lack of early learning opportunities at home and limited access to pre-primary education, she commended the laureates' generosity in sharing their findings and intervention techniques. According to Gordon, the resulting "practical innovation" in the Reach Up programme and the strong, international network of partner institutions around it demonstrate "how lasting change can be achieved through a combination of evidence, partnership and local leadership."

Reach Up provides low-cost, practical, culturally adaptable solutions to



Dr Susan M. Chang-Lopez

expand caregivers' capacity to provide stimulation for children ages 0-4. The activities, built around everyday routines, help caregivers build the knowledge, skills and confidence to talk, play and respond in ways that support cognitive development. Implemented through a network of existing health, social protection, education and

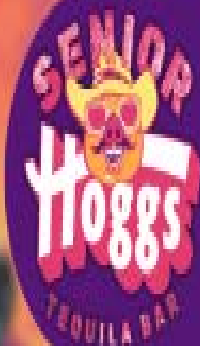
humanitarian systems, Reach Up's curriculum and resources are free and continuously evaluated and adapted to keep the programme effective.

Awardee Professor Susan P. Walker, who led CAIHR as Director from 2012 to 2020, celebrated the impact of the research, saying, "Our vision is to ensure children have early environments that support their development, the foundation for success at school and across the life course. Reach Up started in 1991 as the Jamaica Home Visit programme, testing the idea that



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Sally Grantham-McGregor, Emeritus Professor University College London

regular, low-cost stimulation from their caregiver, delivered through play, conversation, and homemade toys, could change a child's development trajectory as powerfully as good nutrition. We followed the participants as adults and showed those who participated in the programme earned 25-40 per cent more than their peers, with better cognitive skills and improved mental health outcomes. We are very grateful to the Yidanm Foundation for highlighting our work and the importance of investment in the early development of our most vulnerable to reduce inequality."

Co-laureate Dr Chang-Lopez also expressed deep gratitude for the award. "The Yidan award is a public recognition of over 40 years of research conducted here in Jamaica and with partners worldwide. It is an acknowledgement of our life's work. We are deeply grateful to our many colleagues who have contributed to this work currently and in the past. We also thank the many parents and children who have participated in our studies and to our Reach Up global community who are committed to the programme."

With the 2026 Yidan Prize, the laureates receive HK\$ 30 million (approximately US\$ 3.8 million) as an award and an unrestricted project fund to advance their future research. Laureates will be honoured at the Yidan Prize Summit in Hong Kong from December 3 to 5, 2026.



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JAN 9TH AND 10TH 2027

The Global Higher Education Landscape: Challenges and Opportunities

Canute Thompson

The future of higher education, and universities in particular, faces substantial challenges. In the United Kingdom, about fifty (50) universities face the risk of closure in the next few years, and half are on the brink of insolvency. In the United States, the picture is even bleaker. Between the Global Recession (2008) and the immediate post-COVID era (ending 2024), between three hundred (300) and five hundred (500) degree-granting colleges and universities have closed, according to various reports from *University World News* and *The Change Leader, Inc.*

In China, which has the largest number of universities among Asian countries, no facilities have closed, but the government has undertaken a major strategic overhaul of academic programmes, cutting over 12,000 programmes between 2021 and 2024. In Canada, reports indicate that universities and colleges have not experienced closures on the scale seen in Asia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, but funding for public universities and colleges has fallen. Estimates suggest funding for public institutions is currently about 48%, down from about 67% in 2008. Compounding the crisis for USA, UK, and Canadian universities are new visa policies that have drastically reduced the number of international students accessing universities in these countries. These policies have badly hurt many universities' finances.

The picture is somewhat different in Africa and Latin America, for while there have been closures, hundreds of state-approved universities have been opened.

The Caribbean Reality



Canute Thompson

In the Caribbean, about one hundred (100) universities and a few dozen off-shore universities operate across various Caribbean countries. While a few private universities and colleges across the Caribbean have closed, most larger institutions, including those that receive state funding, have remained open, even though all face severe financial challenges.

Despite the relatively large number of local/regional and overseas universities operating in the Caribbean, university enrolment among high school graduates is low, ranging from 15% to 27% across Caribbean countries. In addition, an unspecified number of Caribbean students attend universities overseas. Together, these two facts are a positive for Caribbean universities from a business perspective. The prospects are great for growing the "university" business given that consumption is currently low, provided the products are appealing and given

the developmental imperative to increase demand.

The Twin Imperatives: Stimulating Demand and Increasing Access

Stimulating demand is a major imperative for universities, and this has to do with product a variety of factors including perceptions of the value of a university degree. I have spoken with business leaders and students across the Caribbean, many of whom question the value of a university education. Some leaders question how well students are being equipped for the workplace, and some students question the value of the effort. A July 2026 Gallup Poll found that public confidence in higher education has fallen from 57% in 2015 to 38% in 2026. There is widespread acknowledgement that higher education faces an enrolment crisis. According to UNESCO data, about a decade and a half ago, 21 million students (85%, about 18 million of them undergraduates) were registered in universities globally. The undergraduate population now stands at 15.5 million, down 14%.

State, Institution, and Private Sector Partnership

Yes, a university education is primarily intended to provide the critical-thinking skills to support the attainment of independence and the ability to create jobs, but are people believing that as much as they should and even so, can they afford it? Therefore, there is a need to stimulate demand - which is the role of universities, and to facilitate access, which is a role shared by universities and the State, particularly in developing countries. This is then a collective effort.

The Caribbean is one of only two re-

gions globally with a regional university. As a regional entity, The UWI is an asset whose resources must be leveraged to advance the region's development. Whatever the other descriptions The UWI may attract, it is principally a tool for regional development.

But the partnership on higher education as a tool of development is not exclusively one between institutions and the State, the private sector has an important role to play, not merely as consumers of knowledge outputs from the university but also in informing the areas of knowledge products output should be given consideration and funding some of the knowledge generation activities and given feedback on the quality of graduates needed to drive innovation and productivity in their industries. This feedback loop is essential in order to ensure that universities are meeting the demands of the market.

The Mandate of the Moment and Beyond: Grasping the Opportunities

The challenges facing higher education also offer opportunities. To take advantage of these opportunities, strategies should include:

- ▶ Developing, and seeking external accreditation for, programmes that target students affected by shifts in global geopolitics, particularly visa policies and taxes on international students.
- ▶ Creating responsive micro-credentials systems with keen attention to product offering, design, pricing, and market usefulness.
- ▶ Adopting China's model and undertaking radical reviews of programmes and courses and assessing their relevance to market needs.
- ▶ Centering work-based learning

so as to ensure that more students graduate with relevant work experience.

- ▶ Utilising more creative means to communicate research outputs to ensure that broader cross-sections of Caribbean society have easy access to research data, information, and insights. Scholars need to use social media to share the knowledge they are generating while maintaining engagement with traditional outlets.
- ▶ Establishing systems for enabling undergraduate students (who make up the bulk of university populations) to be involved in business- and industry-aligned research with their lecturers and professors.
- ▶ Promoting entrepreneurship as a central component of the undergraduate studies experience, while building students' leadership skills.



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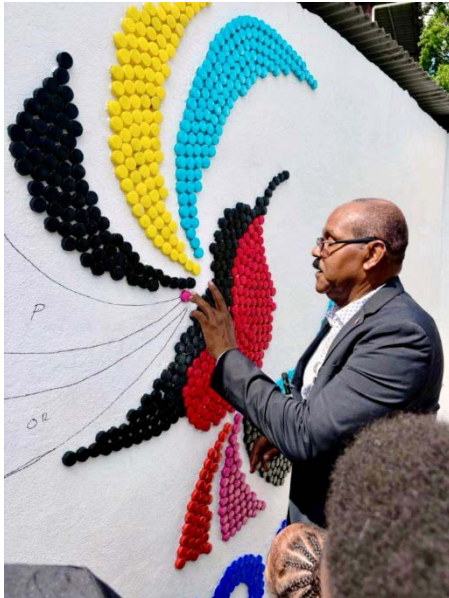
CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
268 Inc

Climate Conscious: One Mission, Many Hands

Climate conscious, day by day,
Choosing a cleaner, wiser way.
Every bottle, every can,
Every action shapes the plan.



Think before we toss and throw,
Ask where all our waste will go.
Learn that waste can still have worth,
Make better choices for the earth.

Across Antigua and Barbuda,
We can build a future greener.
From each classroom, road and shore,
We can choose to waste no more.

Students learning, teachers leading,
Communities changing through believing.
Full recycling bins all year,
Show that better habits grow here.

Bottle by bottle, cap by cap,
We can close the wasteful gap.
Bag by bag and load by load,
We can keep waste off the road.



Through 56 Flags, One Mission,
We turn old caps into a vision.
Commonwealth colours, bright and strong,
Showing where discarded things belong.



Caps once tossed without a thought,
Can become the change we sought.
Waste becomes a work of art,
When conscious choices play their part.
Climate conscious means inclusion too,

Creating paths that people can pursue.
 Green jobs, skills and chances grow,
 When everyone can join the flow.

Businesses also have a role,
 Every workplace shapes the goal.
 Measure waste, reduce the stream,
 Make sustainability part of the team.



Now we invite you to the mission,
 Not just to watch, but join the vision.
 Bring your people, bring your skill,
 Bring what you can, with heart and will.

We need media support to share,
 Photography showing people who care.
 Videography to tell the story,
 Capturing action and community glory.

We need transport for the tour,
 And student buses to do more.
 Printing services, flyers too,
 Educational materials coming through.

We need information and media kits,
 Tents for shade and working bits.
 Thirty-two-ply boards and frames,
 To build each flag and hold its name.

We need glue, paint and primer,
 Resin to make each finish finer.
 Labour services, helping hands,
 To turn our ideas into plans.

We need bottle-cap washing and sorting,
 Volunteer support to keep things moving.
 Stipends to help our teams take part,
 And trucks to move the finished art.

We need drinking water every day,
 Meals to keep the work underway.
 Travel to Barbuda, accommodation too,
 And local transportation to move our crew.

Partnership can take many forms,
 Helping this mission grow and transform.
 Money, materials, time or skill,
 Every contribution moves us still.
 Friend of the Mission starts the way,
 EC\$1,000+ can join today.
 School Tour Partner takes its place,



EC\$2,500+ helps set the pace.

Flag Partner begins at EC\$5,000+,
 Helping our shared mission stay alive.
 Commonwealth Partner starts at EC\$10,000+,
 Helping the movement grow again.

Lead Partner begins at EC\$20,000+,
 Helping this mission reach beyond.
 Each level helps our purpose move,
 Each partner helps the mission prove.

Partnership can also mean
 A bus, a tent, supplies unseen.
 Water, meals, a truck or time,
 Can help this mission rise and climb.

You do not have to do it all,
 One useful action still stands tall.
 One school, one business, one helping hand,
 Can create change across the land.

Climate conscious means we decide
 To protect our home with purpose and pride.
 To teach, recycle, plant and lead,
 And turn good intention into deed.

So join the mission, take your place,
 Bring your energy, skill and grace.
 Help us educate, create and show
 How conscious choices help us grow.

Climate conscious, strong and clear,
 Starts with what we choose right here.
 One mission, many hands in motion,
 Protecting our people, land and ocean together.

TB fears in lock-up

Two persons arrested and charged, and who were being housed at the Duhaney Park Police Station lock-up, are suspected to have died from tuberculosis (TB) within 15 days of each other after being admitted to the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH).

One of the incarcerated men died within 15 minutes of being taken to the hospital in late August, while the other died on September 5, The Sunday Gleaner has learned.

Two others were admitted with suspected TB, along with other ailments, last Wednesday night. While a bed was found for one on Ward 3 East, the other had been left in a wheelchair on another ward.

On Thursday, medical sources told The Sunday Gleaner that “almost every day police officials from Duhaney Park are at KPH with very sick persons from the lock-up”.

“When we made enquiries of the police officials, we were told that, when it’s not KPH they are coming, it’s to a nearby clinic. When it’s not TB, its scabies, and others with body parts so badly infected and swollen that the dead flesh is being cut off ...” one of the sources told The Sunday Gleaner.

“I am told that a man currently in the lock-up is likely to lose his foot because, when he was last taken to the clinic, the doctor said it did not look good and, when the rotten flesh was cut away, the bone was seen. Another one had a swollen finger almost four times his other fingers and was admitted in hospital for a week,” a senior medical staffer told The Sunday Gleaner on Thursday.

The two persons from the lock-up who were admitted on Wednesday night were reportedly suffering from scabies, and three were to be taken to the National Chest Hospital on Thursday.

The Sunday Gleaner understands that, in the first week of September,



the Duhaney Park lock-up was housing 80 detainees.

All 80 were males, though the lock-up has historically been the location where exclusively female detainees are held, with a maximum capacity of 12.

The 80 detainees were reduced by two last Monday, with a further three to be sent to the National Chest Hospital on doctors’ instructions.

The Sunday Gleaner was told that any search of records at the station will show that police personnel have been “judicious” in noting that the facility is overcrowded.

In October last year, the Police Civilian Oversight Authority (PCOA) highlighted what it called “overcrowding problems and a deplorable state of affairs at five of the largest lock-ups in the Area Four policing region”, including Duhaney Park.

The Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM), to which all deaths in custody must be reported, said Friday that it was currently investigating nine deaths in police custody so far this year.

Its communications director, Deynelle Anderson, said deaths are reported immediately to the body. She confirmed that it was investigating at least one case from the Duhaney Park lock-up, reported on September 7, involving a man taken into custody on August 25. He died the same day he was taken to hospital.

The two deaths reported to The Sunday Gleaner are in addition to two persons who died while incarcerated at the Hunts Bay lock-up between 2024 and 2026. Additionally, 31 other cases of TB were reported during the same period, and the Ministry of Health and Wellness said it was gravely concerned about the situation there.

Tamika Harris, president of the Advocates Association of Jamaica, said reports of TB and overcrowding in detention facilities are of deep concern.

“The reports of tuberculosis and overcrowding in our detention facilities represent an active public health emergency that extends far beyond prison walls into our broader communities,” Harris said on Friday.

“When the State deprives individuals

Regional News

of their liberty, especially those presumed innocent, it carries an absolute constitutional duty of care to protect their basic health and safety.”

Harris said the situation warrants an examination of the mandatory minimum sentences and the call by Chief Justice Bryan Sykes for legislators to deal with judge-only trials.

“Mandatory minimum sentences must also be examined. Where there is little meaningful benefit to pleading guilty, more matters proceed to trial, adding to court backlogs and potentially extending the time persons remain on remand. The chief justice’s call for greater use of judge-alone trials may assist with reducing delays, where that mode of trial is freely elected, but it cannot be the only solution,” she argued.

She said reform is impatient of delay.

“Bail, prolonged remand, mandatory minimum sentences, court delays, overcrowding and the resulting health risks are interconnected. We need urgent reform across the entire system, while protecting both public safety and the constitutional rights of accused persons,” she stated.

Human rights organisation Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ) said the State’s seriousness on human rights has to be questioned.

“It has failed to build new lock-ups while simultaneously passing tough-on-crime laws that keep people in detention longer. Pre-charge provisions under the Bail Act and the growing use of mandatory minimum sentences reduce the incentive to plead guilty, lengthen time spent awaiting trial, and leave lock-ups filled far beyond their intended short-term purpose ...” said Mickel Jackson, executive director of JFJ.

Jackson said she believed the courts might have to be asked to provide a remedy on the issue of overcrowding. She made it clear, however, that JFJ had no information that inmates were being denied medical care.

“A constitutional challenge is now

necessary. It seems only a suit against the State will trigger meaningful change. Affected persons and their families should bring claims in the Constitutional Court to enforce the Charter and compel the Government to remedy conditions that turn detention itself into additional punishment,” she said.

According to her, Jamaica is due for its fifth periodic review under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights at the Human Rights Committee’s forthcoming session.

She said JFJ, “will flag these concerning developments in lock-up conditions, which are not new; we already raised the same issues of overcrowding, inadequate medical care and health risks during Jamaica’s recent Universal Periodic Review”.

The PCOA is the quasi-public security body that inspects the facilities and routinely flags lock-ups for operating far beyond capacity, with numbers spiking during targeted operations involving joint police and military crackdowns.

Several reviews by the PCOA cite overcrowding, pest infestation, and confirmed and suspected cases of TB.

Some of the facilities were not inspected due to other conditions.

TB is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and persons with active TB disease in the lungs can spread the disease when speaking, singing, talking and laughing. A person becomes infected after inhaling the droplets when the germs enter the lungs. Symptoms include a persistent cough, fever, poor appetite, and weight loss.

The health ministry indicates that Jamaica is a low-burden TB country with an incidence of less than 10 cases per 100,000 population per year.

The disease can be treated by a combination of several drugs for at least six months. In Jamaica, these drugs are provided free of cost.

The Public Health Class 1 Notifiable Disease Order of 2003 requires

healthcare workers, including those in emergency departments and primary healthcare facilities, to report suspected or confirmed cases within 24 hours. Large crowds in confined spaces are rife for the spread of the disease.

The most recent data provided by the health ministry showed that two TB cases were identified at the Horizon Adult Remand Centre and one at the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre in Kingston.

In 2025, two cases were identified at the Denham Town Police Station lock-up in Kingston, one at the Greater Portmore (100 Man) Police Station in St Catherine, three at Horizon, one at the St Catherine Adult Correctional Centre, and one at the Tower Street Adult Correctional Facility in Kingston.

Another case was confirmed at Horizon, three at Greater Portmore, and one at Denham Town, up to May 2026.

At the time, Dr Christopher Tufton, minister of health and wellness, said the issue was one of national security, public health, and institutional management. The ministry also described the Hunts Bay facility as being of grave concern.

The Ministry of National Security and Constitutional Affairs was asked last week for the islandwide data on individuals in custody who are sick and have been hospitalised, as well as a breakdown by divisions. Its communication arm indicated that the request was brought to the attention of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and that, as soon as a response was received, it would be provided. There was no further response to The Sunday Gleaner up to 6 p.m. Friday.

Last week, Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, state minister in the national security ministry, said the Government was planning to build a \$9-billion maximum-security facility to replace ageing and overcrowded facilities. That facility would house persons already convicted. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

Guyana earned US\$778M from oil in August

Guyana has finally begun receiving an increased share of profits from the Stabroek Block as ExxonMobil has recovered its investments in the country. And according to a Bank of Guyana report the profits that flowed into the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) for August is pegged at US\$778M using an exchange rate of \$208 for one USD.

The revenue for August included profit oil and a signing bonus payment. Further details on the amount of oil sold and information on the company that paid the signing bonus were not made available in that report but is likely to be published in the Bank's quarterly NRF report. That document is not yet available.

Guyana is positioned to earn massive revenues from the ongoing oil and gas production in the Stabroek Block as the American oil major has recovered its investments in the seven projects approved by the GoG. Currently, four projects are producing about 900,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd).

The company is progressing development activities to bring the additional projects on stream by 2029. Guyana's production will surpass one million barrels per day before the end of 2026 as the fifth project, Uaru will add approximately 250,000 barrels. The Floating Production Storage and Offloading vessel (FPSO) for that project has already arrived in Guyana.

Even as the country enjoys increased revenues from the sector, its sudden bounty could be impacted by oil prices. While a sudden change in oil prices is beyond the control of the state, government can take steps to prevent the profits from falling again. If the GoG approves more projects for Exxon without changing the existing arrangements, Guyana's share of profits could again slide from 39.8% to a meagre 12.5%.

In accordance with the terms of the 2016 Production Sharing Agreement



(PSA), Exxon was allowed to take out 75% of the oil produced in Guyana each month until all of the company's investments were repaid.

The remaining 25% of oil each month was split between Guyana and the contractors, with the country receiving half of the "profit oil" or 12.5%. The country's profit share has now increased since the cost of all projects approved to date have been repaid; but this does not mean the cost bank is empty as operational, exploration and other expenses still exist. Consequently, the President said 20% of production has been set aside in the new formula for costs.

In the meantime, ExxonMobil is currently pursuing at least two new projects in the Stabroek Block- its eighth and ninth- which will add more expenses to the cost bank. Without implementing new systems like a ring-fencing provision, Guyana's profit share could again fall to allow the operator to finance these multibillion U.S-dollar projects.

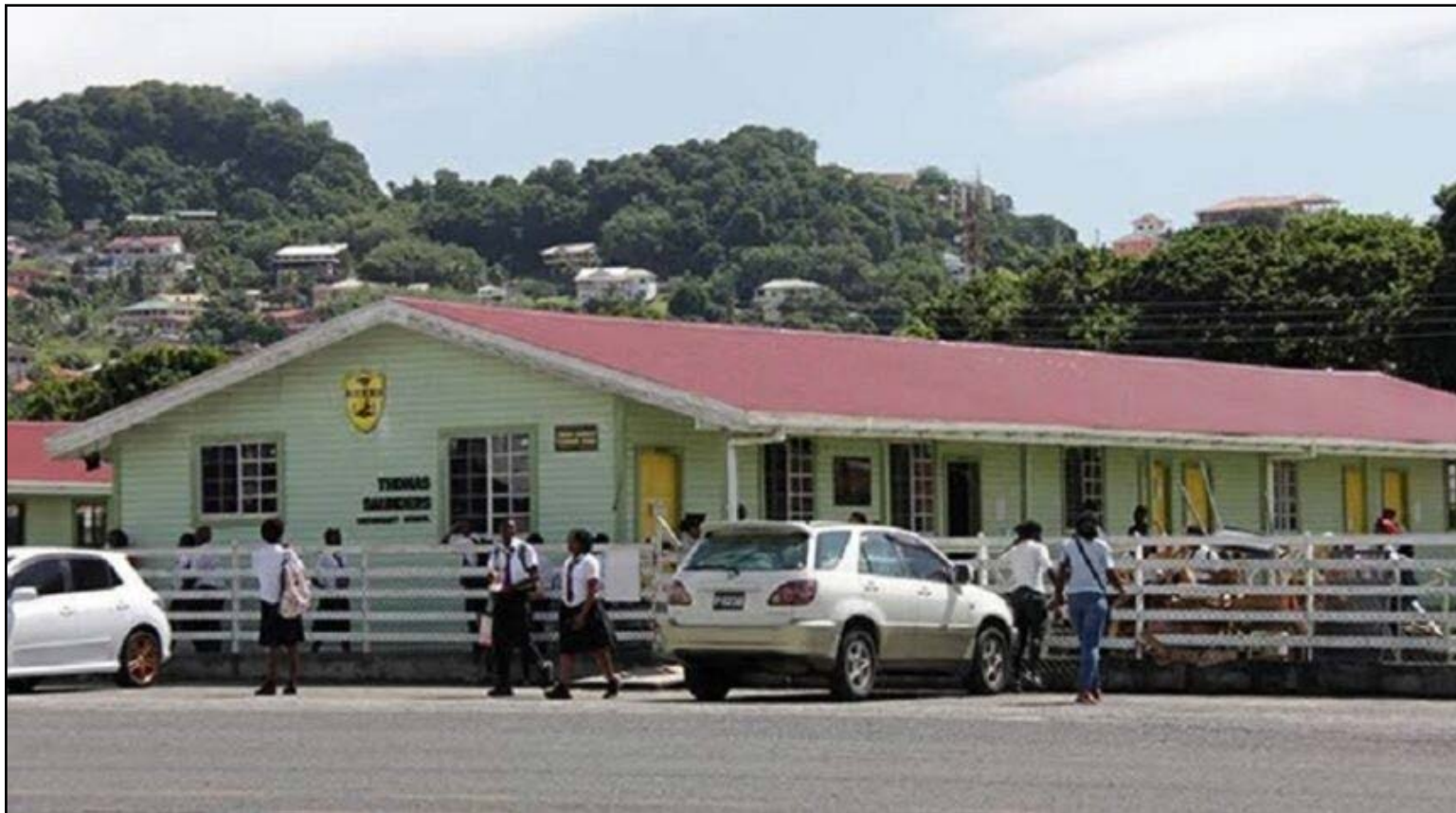
President Irfaan Ali during a press conference last month told this news-

paper that the GoG will seek expert advice on the financing of future developments. Kaieteur News specifically asked the Head of State to explain how new projects would be governed, whether Guyana would allow its share of profits to be invested into upcoming developments and if government would then seek a greater share of revenue as an investor.

To this end, he explained, "Now that we are at this new phase in the development of our oil and gas sector, there are ongoing internal discussions and of course we will also seek expert advice on this matter to make a determination on how the next phase of projects will be treated having regard for the state of the global sector and of course the need for investment, the structure of that investment, where that investment is coming from and of course all the other exploration that is going to take place."

In the meantime, stakeholders have been calling on the GoG to ensure the country's oil profits do not fall and that the country benefits more from any future oil project in the Stabroek Block. (Kaieteur News)

SVG govt promises adjustments as heat impacts schools



The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is evaluating measures to shield students and educators from rising temperatures as climate conditions intensify across the nation.

Minister responsible for Climate Resilience Conroy Huggins announced that officials are examining facility adjustments to improve indoor cooling and maintain safe learning environments.

Huggins warned that climate change is already affecting the country, predicting days where classroom temperatures could become particularly high.

While acknowledging that facility modifications cannot all happen at once, Huggins assured that every effort will be made to protect the safety and well-being of teachers and students.

However, government officials have not yet announced specific details regarding what exact cooling measures will be introduced, how they will be implemented, or a timeline for deployment.

Huggins highlighted the broader environmental picture, describing the current climate pattern as the worst El Niño effect in living memory. (St Vincent Times)



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Six dead, 130 missing after Indonesian ferry capsizes in Java Sea

Six people have died and 107 have been rescued from a capsized Indonesian passenger ferry in the Java Sea, authorities have said.

Another 130 people are still missing after contact was lost with the Virgo Transport8 ship, as it encountered bad weather.

The ferry was travelling from Surabaya to the South Kalimantan city of Banjarmasin and was last reported to be about 150km (93 miles) south of Banjarmasin around 02:00 on Sunday (18:00 GMT on Saturday).

Ships and a helicopter have been deployed to the scene, with 280 personnel taking part in a search and rescue operation. All vessels in the area of the Java Sea have been alerted to report any signs of passengers.

There were 213 passengers and 30 crew members on board the 390ft (119m) ferry.

The ship left Surabaya at 10:33 on Saturday and was scheduled to arrive in Banjarmasin on Sunday at 14:00, according to data from two maritime monitoring sites. Authorities received the initial distress report at 04:10.

A joint task force involving Indonesia's search and rescue agency, navy, maritime police and other parties has been set up for the rescue effort.

Rusmilawati, a resident of Banjarmasin, went to the port to seek information about eight relatives who were passengers on the ship. They were travelling back to Banjarmasin after visiting the tombs of several Islamic scholars in Java.

"They flew there initially, but for the return journey they wanted to try travelling by ship," she told BBC Indonesia.

As of Sunday afternoon local time, Rusmilawati said she had not received any information from officials about whether her relatives had been rescued.

The family last heard from one of the relatives through a WhatsApp status



update. In the post, the relative wrote: "The waves are really frightening tonight. Or is this just what it's normally like travelling by ship, rocking and crashing against the waves?"

"Hopefully they're safe," Rusmilawati said.

Meanwhile, Misnah broke down in tears after learning that her husband, Ahmad Supandi, had survived.

Ahmad, a freight driver, had been aboard Virgo Transport 8 and was later rescued by the vessel MV Haida.

At Tanjung Perak Port in Surabaya, relatives of crew members have also been seeking information about their loved ones.

One relative, Fredy, said his youngest sibling, Stevie Manuhua, worked aboard the vessel as a keyboard player, entertaining passengers.

"We spoke two days ago when the ship was docked in Surabaya. After that, there was no news until now," Fredy said.

He said he had still not received any information about his sibling's whereabouts.

The Indonesian archipelago has more than 17,000 islands and ferries are a common form of transport.

But marine transport accidents are not uncommon. Government data show that 111 ship accidents were recorded between 2020 and 2026.

In July, KM Nurul Salsa sank in waters west of Polassi Island in Selayar Islands Regency, South Sulawesi. A total of 58 people survived, while three were found dead. The whereabouts of another 14 people remain unknown.

Last month, a separate ferry caught fire off Madura island, killing five. (BBC)

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US congressman swims to safety after his plane is forced to land on a lake

Wisconsin Congressman Tom Tiffany has said he sustained minor injuries after a plane he was on landed on a lake, forcing him and the pilot to swim to safety.

Tiffany, the state's Republican nominee for governor, was travelling in a small plane on Saturday night when the aircraft encountered a mechanical issue, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing in Lake Wausau, the county sheriff's office said.

Tiffany said he and the pilot called 911 once they landed.

"As the plane began to submerge, we exited the aircraft and swam to a shallow area, where we waited until emergency responders reached us by boat," Tiffany wrote on social media. The pilot also sustained minor injuries.

Tiffany was coming home from a dinner in La Crosse County when the plane suddenly lost power as it approached Wausau Downtown Airport, he said on Sunday.

Authorities received a 911 report of a plane crash on the lake at 20:49 local time (02:49 BST), the Marathon County Sheriff's office said in a press release. The pair managed to get out of the plane and to shallow water where a Wausau Fire Department airboat rescued them about 15 minutes later, at 21:05 local time, according to the sheriff's office.

The office said Tiffany and the pilot were the only two people on board the Beechcraft K35 - a single-engine plane, also known as a Bonanza, that can carry up to five people.

"God was watching over us tonight, and I am incredibly grateful to be here in the hospital with my wife, Chris, by my side," Tiffany said. "An experience like this reminds you just



how precious life is."

He received a small cut over his right eye in the incident, his campaign said.

The cause of the mechanical issue was not immediately clear, and the sheriff's office said the Federal Avia-

tion Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the incident.

The plane remains in the lake as emergency crews work to remove it, the office added. (BBC)

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Only applicants with proven skills and experience in the listed dishes will be considered.

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Russian drone hits train near Ukraine-Poland border soon after visiting dignitaries passed through



A Russian drone struck a train near the Ukraine- Poland border on Sunday shortly after senior visiting officials — including the former prime ministers of the U.K. and Sweden -- passed through, Ukraine's state rail operator said.

According to Ukrzaliznytsia, a diplomatic train carrying Boris Johnson, Carl Bildt and security advisers from several European Union states had purposely left the station at Yahodyn ahead of schedule. The visitors were on their way back from a security conference in Kyiv

"It is highly probable that the Russian drone's intended target was in fact the diplomatic train, which had departed the station earlier than scheduled," the company said in a Telegram post.

Bildt, the former Swedish PM, shared a video on X of the attack at Yahodyn station, near the Yahodyn-Dorohusk border crossing with Poland.

"This wasn't our train, but the one just minutes after us by the Polish border crossing," Bildt said. "It was evacuated as the Russian drone approached and no one was hurt. Very good safety system. Our train just had an evacuation warning."

Bildt, Johnson and fellow passengers had been in Kyiv for the Yalta European Strategy conference, which is an annual gathering of leaders and experts across politics, business, security and media. Another train, with former CIA Director David Petraeus on board, was still at Yahodyn station when the drone struck, according to Ukrzaliznytsia.

There were no immediate reports of casualties on any of the trains. Ukrzaliznytsia said it "constantly ad-

justs train schedules" to guard against strikes.

"I don't know what warped logic drove Putin to blow up a stationary Ukrainian locomotive on the Polish border this morning," Johnson wrote in a post on X.

"What we can say for sure is that this is the kind of random and senseless attack Ukrainians are enduring every day — even on civilian railways," he added.

Earlier on Sunday, a Russian drone hit a truck less than a mile from Polish territory, according to border guards, forcing the temporary closure of the Yahodyn-Dorohusk crossing. (AP)



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



Fire at nursing home in Chile kills 16 elderly residents

A fire at a nursing home in southern Chile has killed 16 elderly residents and left others hospitalised.

The blaze broke out late on Friday at the single-storey care home in Pitruquén, in the Araucanía region, about 640km (400 miles) south of the capital, Santiago.

Firefighters extinguished the flames early Saturday.

Twenty-six elderly people were inside the facility when the fire started. Ten survived and were taken to a local hospital, according to the local government. The private facility had previously faced fines and enforcement proceedings for operating outside regulations.

Images posted on social media showed flames engulfing the building overnight, with firefighters using a water hose to battle the blaze.

Municipal authorities expressed their condolences to the families of those who died. Pitruquén Mayor Jacqueline Romero said municipal health and public safety teams, firefighters, and police were working at the scene and supporting relatives of the victims.

“In February, the municipality had sent a letter specifically calling for an inspection because the facility was not in compliance with regulations – it was subject to sanitary enforcement proceedings,” Romero told local networks.



Firefighters continued removing debris and collapsed corrugated metal roofing on Saturday, while police secured the area.

The cause of the fire is still unknown. Local prosecutor Jorge Granada said investigators were examining the scene and questioning people to determine how the fire began and whether anyone else was involved.

Regional health official Jose Bravo said the facility had a history of regulatory problems, describing it as an unregulated operation that had been subject to administrative proceedings and fines since 2019.

Romero said the municipality had re-

quested an inspection in February after finding that the home was not complying with regulations and was facing sanitary enforcement proceedings.

Chile President Jose Antonio Kast called for the circumstances surrounding the deaths to be fully investigated in a post on X. He also said he had ordered “urgent measures” to assess conditions at nursing homes nationwide and identify changes needed to prevent a similar incident.

This accident comes less than a week after a fire broke out at Chile’s Hotel Alto Nevados, where FIS Masters Alpine Skiing World Cup racers were staying for a preseason training camp. (Al Jazeera)



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Antigua and Barbuda Chess Delegation Heads to Samarkand for 46th Chess Olympiad



Thirteen representatives of Antigua and Barbuda will journey to Samarkand, Uzbekistan, as the nation prepares to compete at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad, bringing together chess players and federations from across the world.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation will compete under the banner "Road to Samarkand 2026", representing the culmination of months of preparation, training, logistical planning and national support.

For the Antigua and Barbuda Chess Federation (ABCF), participation in the Olympiad is about more than the results recorded across the chessboard. It represents an opportunity to expose national players to elite international competition, strengthen their competitive experience and ratings, and build greater depth within Antigua and Barbuda's chess programme.

A particularly significant feature of the 2026 campaign is the participation of Antigua and Barbuda's women's team, an important milestone in the Federation's drive to increase opportunities and international representation for women and girls in chess.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda

Chess Federation, Dr. Hannibal Fleming, described the delegation's participation as both a national responsibility and an investment in the future of the sport.

"This delegation represents far more than thirteen individuals travelling to compete. They carry with them the flag, aspirations and growing chess ambitions of Antigua and Barbuda. Every board they sit at in Samarkand is an opportunity to demonstrate that the size of our nation does not define the scale of our potential."

Dr. Fleming continued:

"We are going to the Olympiad to compete, to learn, to strengthen our international standing and to return better equipped to build the next generation of Antiguan and Barbudan chess players. The participation of our women's team makes this journey particularly significant. We want every young boy and girl watching this team to understand that the pathway from learning chess at home to representing Antigua and Barbuda on the world stage is real."

The Olympiad also forms an important part of the Federation's wider development strategy. ABCF has identified skills development, youth development, increased female participation, financial sustainability and community growth among its strategic priorities as it works to establish stronger pathways from grassroots participation to national and international



competition.

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KASHYAP RESPONDS IN EMPHATIC STYLE WITH THREE-MEDAL HAUL IN ECUADOR



Antiguan teenager captures Gold, Silver and Bronze at WTT Youth Contender Cuenca

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda — Antigua and Barbuda's Stuti Kashyap delivered an outstanding performance at the WTT Youth Contender Cuenca 2026 in Ecuador, capturing three medals from the three events she contested — Gold, Silver and Bronze.

The international youth tournament, saw Kashyap claim Gold in the U19 Mixed Doubles, Silver in the U17 Girls' Singles, and Bronze in the U19 Girls' Singles.

Her championship performance came in the U19 Mixed Doubles, where she partnered Eshaan Nayak of India. The pair saved their best for the final, defeating the top-seeded combination of Mandy Yu of the United States and Ivan Santino Pastore Acosta of Paraguay in straight games, 11–7, 12–10, 13–11, to secure the title.

Kashyap was equally impressive in the U17 Girls' Singles. She swept Ecuador's Karolayn Maldonado 3–0 in the quarterfinals before overcoming Abigail Yu of the United States 3–1 in the semifinals.

In the final against Mandy Yu, Kashyap took the opening game 11–8 and pushed the second to 11–13 before eventually going down 1–3, earning an impressive silver medal.

Competing against older players in the U19 Girls' Singles, Kashyap won both of her group matches 3–0 before advancing to the semifinals. There she again faced Yu, falling 0–3 to complete her tournament with a bronze medal and a podium finish in every event entered.

The performance comes shortly after Kashyap endured a difficult outing at the Central American and Caribbean Games in the Dominican Republic, where extreme heat conditions affected her during her singles competition.

Her response in Ecuador was emphatic.

Rather than allowing that experience to disrupt her progress, the 17-year-old returned to international competition and produced one of the most complete tournament performances of her young career.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association Charles Bellot said the result demonstrated both Kashyap's quality and her resilience.

"Three events and three medals at this level is an exceptional achievement. We are particularly pleased with the way Stuti responded after what was a very difficult experience at the CAC Games. Young athletes will encounter difficult moments in sport; what is important is how they respond. Stuti went back to work, returned to international competition and responded with a gold, a silver and a bronze."

Bellot said the performance's signif-

icance goes beyond the medal count.

"What impresses us is the consistency. Stuti didn't simply have one outstanding event. She reached the podium in both singles categories and then won the U19 Mixed Doubles title. She competed successfully against quality international opposition and demonstrated that she can perform across different events and age categories."

Kashyap herself described the Mixed Doubles title as the highlight of the tournament and expressed pride at completing all three events with medals.

She also thanked the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) for its continued support and the opportunities it has helped provide for her international development.

The ABTTA joins Kashyap in acknowledging that support, which remains important as the young athlete continues to gain the international competition and experience necessary for the next stages of her development.

For Kashyap, Cuenca represents another important step in a journey focused on competing successfully at increasingly higher levels of international table tennis, with the Youth Olympic Games and ultimately qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games among the longer-term objectives.

For Antigua and Barbuda, however, the message from Ecuador was already unmistakable:

Three events. Three podiums. One Gold. One Silver. One Bronze.

And another significant international performance for **Antigua and Barbuda table tennis**.

Barbados Tridents beat Kingmen to seal CPL playoff spot

The Barbados Tridents clinched a two-wicket victory off the final ball against the Jamaica Kingsmen to secure their spot in the playoff and knockout stages of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Saturday night.

The Tridents reached their victory target of 151 for the loss of eight wickets off the final ball of their innings after restricting the Jamaica Kingsmen to 150 for nine off their allotted 20 overs.

Gudakesh Motie smashed 17 not out, all his runs coming from the final over of the match to secure a dramatic win for the Tridents.

All-rounder Shadrack Descarte topscored for the Tridents with 56 off 42 balls, including six fours and two sixes. Opener Brandon King hit 18 off 16 balls, captain Chris Green got 17 off 12 balls, and Quinton de Kock made 14 off 16 balls. Fast bowler Hunain Shah claimed two for 25.

Opener Maaz Sadaqat hit a top-score of 47 off 34 balls, including three fours and two sixes, for the Jamaica Kingsmen, who lost the toss and were sent in to bat.

Usman Khan got 18, Hassan Khan scored 16, and Keacy Carty made 15. Left-arm pacer Jakeem Pollard captured three for 38, left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie grabbed two wickets for seven runs, and medium pacer Daniel Sams claimed two for 41.

Motie – coming in at number 9 – slashed Odeon Smith for four over point and smashed a straight six in the first two legal balls, accompanied by two wides, then managed to



Barbados Tridents' Gudakesh Motie bats against the Jamaica Kingsmen in their CPL match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Saturday, September 12, 2026. (CPLT20)

take a quick single on the final delivery of the over to get the Tridents over the line from the most unlikely of positions.

Shadrack Descarte's half-century set up the chase towards the back end of the Tridents' innings before Motie's final over heroics.

The Kingsmen were allowed to get off to a flying start, scoring 50 for one in the PowerPlay, and off-spinner Chris Green bowled a full allocation inside the first 10 overs.

Maaz Sadaqat set the platform at the top of the order before Motie removed him to leave the Kingsmen at 86 for three.

The experienced middle-order which have proved valuable for the Kingsmen in the competition to date couldn't find anything more than brief cameos with Andre Russell, who made 10, Hassan Khan, and Keacy Carty, all departing in a Tri-

dents fightback.

The Tridents struggle to find momentum in their response from the start, losing three wickets in the PowerPlay.

With up to two-a-ball needed for the majority of the latter half of the innings, Descarte timed his only two sixes for a crucial 15th over, striking 16 to keep the fight alive in a memorable maiden T20 half-century.

In the final over it was Motie who took his team to victory and in doing so secured a place for the Tridents in the latter stages of the tournament.

Although losing to the Tridents, the Jamaica Kingsmen clinched the last spot in the playoffs as the fourth-place team, thanks to a superior net run rate to the St. Lucia Kings after both teams finished the seven-team round-robin preliminary stage tied on eight points from their quota of 10 matches.

Tridents beat Empress for crucial win in defense of WCPL title



Qiana Joseph, second left, and Cherry-Ann Fraser, third left, lead the celebration after the Barbados Tridents defeated the Jamaica Empress in with WCPL match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Saturday, September 12, 2026. (WCPLT20)

Defending champions Barbados Tridents clinched a last-ball thriller, beating newcomers Jamaica Empress by three runs at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Saturday, to get their first points in the 2026 Limacol Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) and all but knock first-timers out of the playoffs race.

The Barbados Tridents batted first, scoring 140 for seven off their 20 overs. Suzie Bates hit 39 not out, and Maddy Green also scored 39. Captain Hayley Matthews struck 21, and fellow opener Qiana Joseph got 14. Off-spinner Stefanie Taylor claimed four for 29.

In reply, the Jamaica Empress was restricted to 137 for four off their 20 overs. Meg Lanning hit 57, and Amy Hunter struck 47.

Left-arm-spinner Qiana Joseph

bowled a boundary-less last over when Empress needed nine to win, with six wickets in hand, helping Tridents defend their total of 140.

The Empress were well on their way in their chase, with openers Meg Lanning and Amy Hunter putting on 104 for the first wicket. Empress needed 37 from 43 balls, with all their wickets intact, when the tables turned.

Hunter was dismissed, Suzie Bates took the wicket of Rashada Williams for four in her final over, and the boundaries dried up. Lanning fell in the 18th over, and that over ended with Empress needing 14 runs off 12 balls.

But Cherry-Ann Fraser conceded just five runs in the 19th over - despite bowling two wides - before Joseph gave away just five singles

in the last over, including off the last ball when Empress needed five runs to win.

The Tridents didn't get off to a great start after opting to bat. Openers Qiana Joseph and Hayley Matthews scored at under run a ball and the Indian pair of Kiran Navgire (8) and Harleen Deol, who scored two on her WCPL debut, couldn't get into double figures, leaving the Tridents struggling on 56 for four in the 10th over.

The New Zealand pair of Suzie Bates and Maddy Green then stitched a solid fifth-wicket stand of 78 runs in 10 overs to lift Tridents past 130.

Green was dismissed and Bates was left watching three wickets fall in four balls at the other end in a 12-run final over from Stafanie Taylor.

The win allows the Tridents to go third on the points table. The Tridents will face second-placed Guyana Amazon Warriors in the last game of the round-robin stage.

The result of the last round-robin match will determine the final qualification standings, with the Trinbago Knight Riders already assured of a top-three finish.

The Tridents could still slip to fourth behind Empress if they lose to the Amazon Warriors, but it will need to be a heavy defeat, with Tridents (-0.450) enjoying a significant net run rate advantage over the Empress (-1.153).

Elena Rybakina beats Aryna Sabalenka to win the US Open title



Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan holds the trophy after she won the women's singles final of the US Open tennis championships against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in New York, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026. (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Elena Rybakina came to New York and took everything that had belonged to Aryna Sabalenka.

First, it was the No. 1 ranking in women's tennis, then the US Open trophy. The tournament that for so long was a struggle for Rybakina turned into the site of her coronation.

Rybakina won her first US Open title and punctuated her climb to the top of her sport by beating Sabalenka 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 on Saturday.

Rybakina had already been guaranteed to replace Sabalenka at No. 1 in the rankings next week and for good measure took the title that Sabalenka had won the previous two years.

"It's still so difficult to process what happened," Rybakina said.

"Too many achievements these few weeks."

It was the third Grand Slam title for Rybakina and the second this year — both against Sabalenka on hard courts. She opened the season by beating Sabalenka for the Australian Open title.

This time, Rybakina stopped Sabalenka's 19-match winning streak at the US Open, where she hadn't lost since falling to Coco Gauff in the 2023 final.

Rybakina earned US\$5.5 million, the largest prize in Grand Slam history, and tied Sabalenka and French Open winner Mirra Andrejeva with a tour-high three titles this season.

Sabalenka took home US\$2.8 million but it was clear how little that meant to her, as she smashed her racket after a brief hug with Rybak-

ina at the net.

Sabalenka was trying to become the first person since Serena Williams from 2012-14 to win three in a row at Flushing Meadows.

"I was just out there competing, trying to do my best with what I had there today," Sabalenka said. "Not good enough."

Rybakina dethroned the champ without even having her best stuff. The WTA Tour leader in aces got less than half of her first serves in but instead put Sabalenka under constant pressure with a strong return game, racking up

12 break chances and converting three, which was all she needed.

The third meeting of No. 1 vs. No. 2 in a US Open women's final since 2000 was the first to go the way of the challenger. Williams was the top seed for the other two, beating her sister Venus in 2002 and Victoria Azarenka in 2013.

The numbers didn't signify much this time, because they are going to flip Monday. Sabalenka has held the top spot for 99 consecutive weeks, but Rybakina gained enough points to unseat her simply by reaching the semi-finals. She didn't stop there.

The 27-year-old, who was born in Russia but represents Kazakhstan, won her first major title at Wimbledon in 2022 and now needs just the French Open to complete the career Grand Slam.

Haaland's disputed goal wins Manchester derby for 10-man City



Manchester City's Erling Haaland, right, challenges for the ball with Manchester United's Kobbie Mainoo during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Manchester City in Manchester, England, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Erling Haaland's hotly contested goal settled the 199th Manchester derby on Sunday.

The Norwegian struck in the 60th minute at Old Trafford to seal a 1-0 win for 10-man Manchester City over fierce rival Manchester United in the Premier League.

At first, the goal was ruled out for offside, but after VAR review the onfield decision was overturned. That sparked a roar of celebration from the away fans.

United's players were incensed by the decision, with Enzo Fernandez appearing to be in an offside position during the buildup. But the Premier League said the goal was allowed because, despite diving to head the ball,

the Argentine did not get a touch before it reached Haaland at the far post.

However, league rules state a player is interfering with play when "clearly attempting to play a ball which is close when this action impacts on an opponent."

Man City will feel justice was done after Phil Foden was sent off in the 23rd for kicking out at Bruno Fernandes.

With an extra man, United hit the post either side of halftime - first from Marcus Rashford's long-range free kick and then Kobbie Mainoo's low shot from the edge of the area.

Haaland's goal makes him the top scorer in the Manchester derby in Premier League history with nine. City moved level on points with defend-

ing champion Arsenal at the top of the standings.

Coventry's nightmare start to the season continued with a 5-0 home loss to Brighton.

After running away at the top of the Championship last season it has been a rude awakening for Frank Lampard's team since their return to England's top flight.

Four straight defeats leaves Coventry rooted to the foot of the standings without a goal and a goal difference of minus 10.

Brighton led 1-0 at halftime through Charalampos Kostoulas before going on a scoring spree after the break with goals from Malick Yalcouye, Pascal Gross, Lewis Dunk, and Yasin Ayari.

Business Basketball League officially commence at JSC



Some of the teams on parade during the official opening of the Cool and Smooth ABBA Business Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

There were wins for Anjo Wholesale and newcomer CTM Auto Spa in the opening matches of the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

Anjo Wholesale launched their campaign with a commanding 85-25 drubbing of Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC).

Jahaziel Santana shot a game-high 20 points, and teammates Yohan Nicholas and Jaiden Lewis each chipped in with 10 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Malique Ward sank 10 points, and Raheem Charles scored nine points for SLBMC.

Debutant CTM Auto Spa snatched a narrow 45-42 victory against Sandals in their opening encounter. Teyran Zachariah converted 12 points, and Donte Trimmingham scored 10 points for CTM Auto Spa.

T-Shawn Lewis shot a game-high 16 points, and Selassie Brathwaite scored eight points for Sandals.

Thirteen (13) teams, one less than last year, are contesting the 2026 business basketball league, which officially commenced with a march past and brief opening ceremony.

Among them are the defending champs, the Board of Education (BOE), who captured the double by winning both titles in the 2025 ABBA Cool and Smooth Business Basketball League.

After securing the round-robin league crown by winning all 13 matches, the top-seeded Board of Education maintained their perfect unbeaten run to capture the playoff championship by winning Game 2 65-58 to wrap up their best-of-three finals 2-0 against third-seed and 2022 champions Richie's Shooterz.

The Shooterz, which won the title in 2022, will be seeking redemption after failing in their title bid last

year. Also competing are former champions Sandals and the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB).

The Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT), Curtain Bluff Hotel, Phillipines, CTM Auto Spa, and Christos did not participate last year and will be competing in the 2026 edition.

The other teams returning from last year are Antigua Power Company, Anjo Wholesale, Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, and Sledge O'Ballers.

The business league will continue with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday evening.

Richie's Shooterz will face Philipines at 6:30 pm, Sandals will face Christos at 7:30 pm, and the Board of Education will take on the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 8:30 pm.