

Fire Leaves Seven People Homeless

Story on page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (second from left) and High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill (extreme right) along with two members of the CWEIC in London

Fire Leaves Seven People Homeless

Seven people are reportedly homeless today following a fire that tore through three small wooden houses on Lower Dickenson Bay Street on Wednesday afternoon.

Reports are that two of the three houses burnt to the ground while the third was partially destroyed by the fire. The occupants of one of the houses, reportedly Haitian non-nationals, reported that all their belongs including passports and other documents were destroyed in the fire.

Residents reported that three of the persons affected by the fire were at work when they received word of the fire, while an elderly woman with mobility issues had to be rescued by others in the community. There were no reports of injuries only that persons lost all their belongings.

A fourth house on the compound that is located at the front of the property was untouched by the fire



There are conflicting reports about whether or not the first fire engine to arrive on the scene did so without water as claimed by residents. However,

this claim has been strongly refuted by Fire Chief, Vivian Parker,

The cause of the fire is now the subject of an ongoing investigation.

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Met Office Lifts Flash Flood Warnings Overnight

A tropical wave weather system forced the Antigua and Barbuda Met Office to issue a flash flood warning Wednesday afternoon as heavy showers fell on parts of the country.

The Met Office issued the flash flood warning to be in effect from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm during which the heaviest of the showers fell. Most of the rain fell in the area surrounding the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium where 31 mm or 1.2 inches of rain fell.

The other areas that recorded heavy showers were on the northern side of Antigua with the airport recording 20.6 mm or .8 of an inch. In comparison, less rain was recorded in the southern corridor of Antigua. The bulk of the rain fell within a 6-hour period.

At 8:00 pm, the flash flood warning was lifted, although the Met Office indicated that lingering clouds and moisture could give rise to isolated thunder storms and showers overnight into today, Thursday.

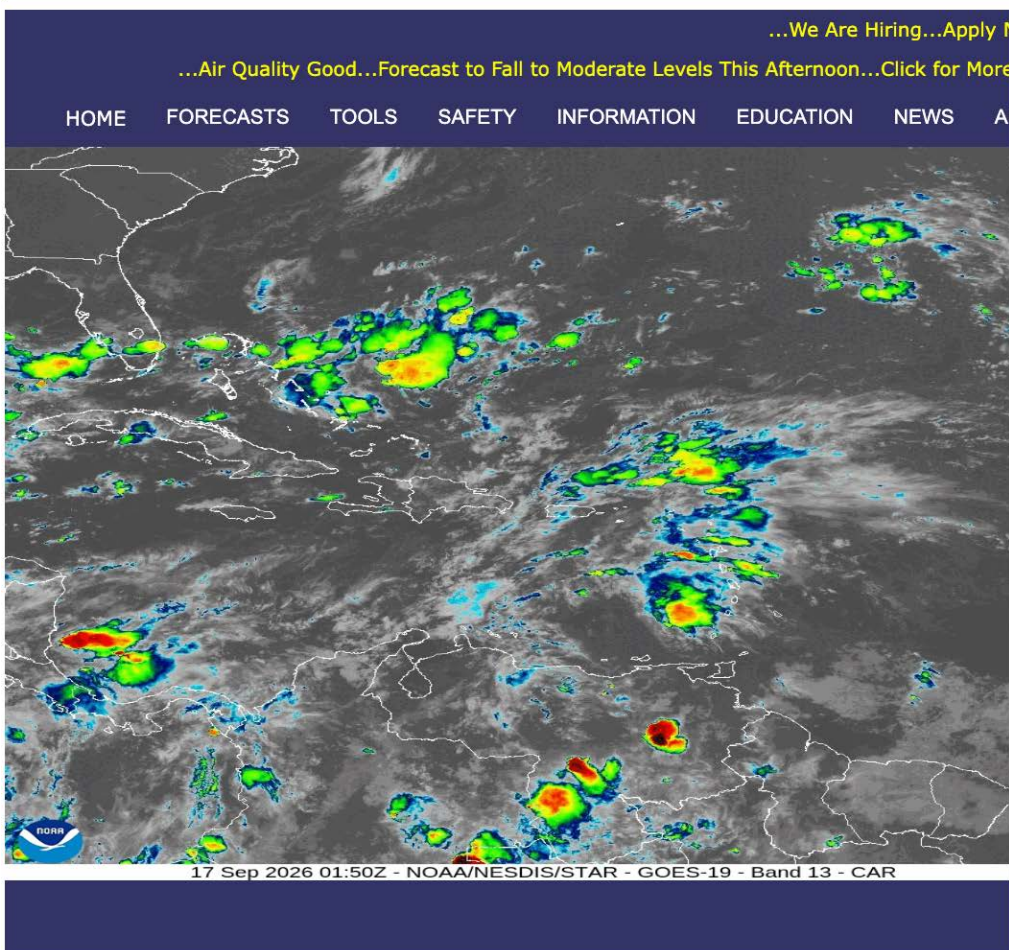
Overnight, the Met Office reported that the system had already drifted past Antigua and Barbuda but noted that it could further strengthen and affect those countries further north of the Leeward islands.

According to the Met Office there is more than a sixty percent chance for rain today (Thursday) and on Sunday. Friday and Saturday had a less than fifty percent chance of rainfall.



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There are no major weather systems out in the Tropical Atlantic that could later pose problems for the Eastern Caribbean.

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Police Seek Janiah Antion In Connection With Murder Investigation

The police are seeking the public's assistance in locating Janiah Antion of Golden Grove, who is wanted in connection with the ongoing murder investigation into the death of 60-year-old Mordecai Eleazar Francis of Swetes.

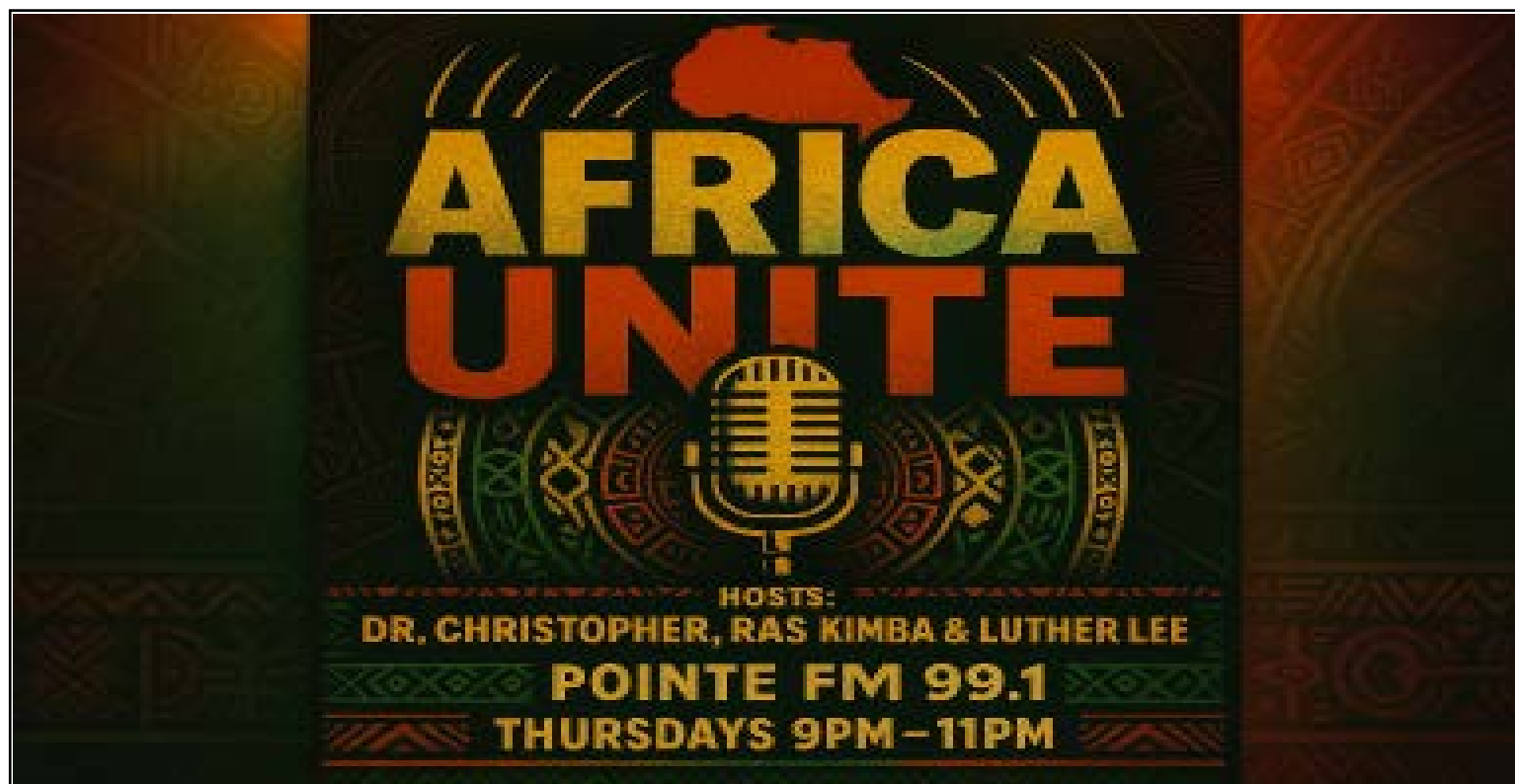
Antion is believed to be in his early twenties. He is believed to be armed and is therefore considered dangerous.

Police are appealing to Antion to surrender himself at any police station without delay.

Anyone with information concerning his whereabouts is asked to contact any police station or the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.

Members of the public are strongly warned not to approach or engage him if he is seen. Instead, immediately notify the police.

The Police Administration is appealing for the public's continued cooperation and urges anyone with information that may assist the investigation to come forward.

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THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM

Prime Minister Browne and CWEIC Discuss Final Arrangements for the Commonwealth Business Forum



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, met with senior officials of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) to advance preparations for the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF), which will take place in Antigua and Barbuda from 2nd to 4th November 2026 as part of CHOGM Week.

The discussions focused on practical arrangements for the three-day Forum, including the programme,

participation by Heads of Government and Ministers, high-level business representation, prospective invitees, and opportunities to attract leading investors and corporate decision-makers from across the Commonwealth and beyond.

Prime Minister Browne emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Forum delivers tangible outcomes and serves as a practical platform for connecting governments, investors and the private

sector.

He noted that the Commonwealth Business Forum should provide opportunities not only for high-level dialogue but for the development of new commercial partnerships, investment opportunities and projects capable of contributing to sustainable economic growth across Commonwealth member states.

Particular attention was given to ensuring strong representation from leading international and Commonwealth businesses, investors, entrepreneurs and financial institutions, as well as creating opportunities to showcase investment-ready projects from Antigua and Barbuda and other Commonwealth countries.

Prime Minister Browne also stressed the importance of the Forum addressing the specific economic and investment needs of Small Island Developing States and demonstrating how private capital and international partnerships can be mobilised to support resilience, infrastructure, innovation and sustainable development.

The Prime Minister thanked CWEIC for its partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in organising the Forum and expressed confidence that the event will be one of the major highlights of CHOGM 2026.

The Commonwealth Business Forum will bring together senior government and business leaders for high-level discussions, business-to-business engagement, networking and investment promotion, consistent with the overarching CHOGM 2026 theme, “Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth.”

National Consultation Examines CARICOM's Readiness To Accept Further Tariff Liberalisation



A national consultation was convened in St. John's on Wednesday with stakeholders from the public and private sectors as part of a regional assessment of the readiness of CARICOM Member States to engage in further tariff liberalisation with external trading partners.

The organisers of the event were the Office of the National Authorising Officer (ONAO) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat conducted

The consultations formed part of a wider process being undertaken across CARICOM Member States that participate in negotiations with third countries aimed at liberalising trade in goods. The Readiness Assessment seeks to strengthen CARICOM's approach to negotiating market access commitments, by placing greater emphasis on evidence-based analysis of the Region's trade interests and performance.

One of the session facilitators, Vincent Atkins, Technical Advisor and Market Access Specialist (Goods), CARICOM Secretariat, told partici-

pants that the consultations were an important opportunity to examine the current trading environment and to identify the interests, opportunities



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and challenges facing Antigua and Barbuda.

Dennis Crawford, Agriculture Specialist with the CARICOM Secretariat, emphasised the importance of gathering accurate information and meaningful input from national stakeholders, particularly businesses and other private-sector actors directly involved in the production importation and distribution of goods. Such information, he explained, would assist in ensuring that the Region's negotiating positions are informed by the realities of its economies.

Stakeholders welcomed the opportunity and expressed the view that such engagements are vital to developing

national negotiating positions.

The consultations were divided into two groups and attracted about twenty-five (25) persons from both the public and private sectors. The national consultations provided an important opportunity for stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda to share their perspectives, experiences and concerns on the potential implications and opportunities associated with further tariff liberalisation.

Inputs from stakeholders will contribute to the assessment of Antigua and Barbuda's interests and evaluate its readiness to engage in future negotiations as part of CARICOM in relation to specific sectors, imports, exports,

competitiveness, and opportunities for increased market access.

The information gathered through the national consultations will contribute to the broader CARICOM assessment and support efforts to ensure that future negotiations with external trading partners are informed by reliable trade data, national priorities and the interests of regional producers and consumers.

Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to constructive participation in CARICOM's trade agenda and to ensuring that its national interests and priorities are appropriately reflected in the Region's approach to external trade negotiations.



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Our client, who operates a small-scale boutique hospitality property, is seeking a hands-on hospitality professional with strong experience in hotel operations, Food & Beverage, events and catering, together with the ability to support the marketing and promotion of the property and its services, to fill the position of Hotel Manager.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will be responsible for the effective day-to-day management of the property, including:

- Front Office, Reservations, Housekeeping and Room Attendant operations;
- Kitchen, Restaurant and Bar operations;
- Coordination and oversight of private events, corporate functions, meetings and catering activities;
- Planning, staffing and executing events to the required standard;
- Guest experience, service quality and resolution of guest concerns;
- Staff supervision, scheduling, training and performance;
- Online booking engines and property management systems;
- Hotel supplies, linen, Food & Beverage inventory and cost controls;
- Monitoring occupancy, room revenue, Food & Beverage and event performance;
- Supporting promotions, marketing initiatives and the property's online presence;
- Coordinating routine maintenance and service providers;
- Liaising with clients, suppliers and service providers on event requirements; and
- Assisting with event and catering packages and identifying opportunities to increase revenue.

The role requires a proactive and versatile manager who is comfortable working hands-on within a small hospitality operation and identifying opportunities to improve service, occupancy and revenue.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of five (5) years' experience in hotel or hospitality management;
- Strong experience in Food & Beverage operations, events and catering;
- Proven staff supervisory and leadership experience;
- Proficiency with online booking engines and property management systems;
- Knowledge of budgeting, inventory management, cost control and operational reporting;
- Demonstrated understanding of marketing and promotional strategies aimed at increasing occupancy and revenue; and
- Excellent communication, organisational, problem-solving and guest-relations skills.

Experience managing a boutique or small hotel property would be an advantage. Candidates must be prepared to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends where required, and must be legally entitled to work in Antigua and Barbuda.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and current résumé/CV **no later than 30th September 2026** to info@wglawantigua.com with **Subject line: Vacant Position: Hotel Manager.**

Applications will be treated in confidence. Only suitably qualified or shortlisted applicants may be contacted.

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Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public

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Antigua and Barbuda Mounts Activities Marking World Ozone Day



Antigua and Barbuda as a signatory to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer joined the International community in observing September 16th as World Ozone Day under the theme “Global Action for a Cooler Planet”.

The Montreal on substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and described as the most successful environmental treaty focuses on the preservation of the Ozone Layer which protects humans, plant and marine life. Other benefits include energy efficiency and climate sustainability.

The National Ozone Unit in the Ministry of Trade celebrated the day with Refrigeration and Air Condition Students at the Dr. Alister Francis Campus, one of the campuses of the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS). It included presentation on the importance of World Ozone Day, responsibility of



RAC technicians in undertaking Good Refrigeration Practices in their trade to protect the Ozone Layer and the environment generally. Students also received hands on demonstration on recovery and recycling, another im-

portant element of the trade.

A highlight of the day included the presentation of equipment by the National Ozone Unit in the Ministry of Trade for use in the Refrigeration and Air Condition Program at the college.



1. First and Second Year RAC Students along with RAC lecturer, Mr. Carl David, Deputy Principal, Mrs. Sonia Whittaker, Dr. Elvis Watkins former student of the RAC Program at the college along with National Ozone Officer in the Ministry Trade take time for a group photo as part of the day's observance.
2. Teaching Equipment presented by the National Ozone Unit in the Ministry of Trade to the Head of Engineering Department, Mr. Jace Gore, Deputy Principal of the Dr. Alister Francis Campus, Mrs. Sonia Whittaker and RAC Lecturer, Mr. Carl David.
3. First and Second-year Female Refrigeration and Air Condition Stu-



dents at the Dr. Alister Francis Campus during today's practical demonstration.

4. Refrigeration and Air Condition Students listen to presentation by Dr. Elvis Watkins former RAC Student of the College and Managing Director of Murwat Enterprises on Good Practices in Refrigeration
5. Practical Demonstration in Progress for RAC Students as part as World Ozone Day Activities.

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
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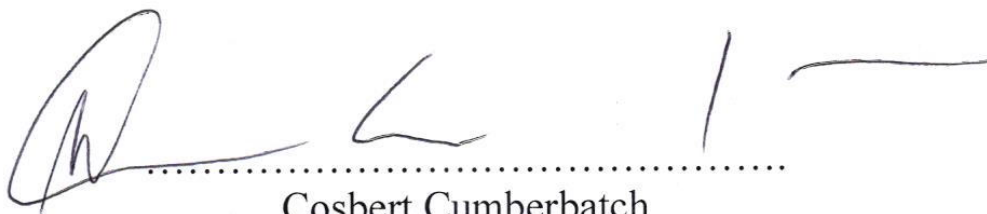
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John's, Antigua, Deceased**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
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TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **GLORIA C. SMITH**, of Carlisle Estate, St. John's, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant, who is the wife of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 27th day of May, 2022.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 16th day of Sept 2026



Cosbert Cumberbatch
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

Commentary

Grenadian Lawyer and PM Browne Lock Horns Over Chemical Castration Proposal

Grenadian criminal defence attorney **Jerry Edwin** has criticised Prime Minister Gaston Browne's proposal to consider chemical castration for repeat offenders convicted of sexually abusing children, describing the suggestion as a "political stunt."

It is the latest in a string of reactions regarding the tough stance Prime Minister Browne is taking against criminals, including child rapists.

Edwin made the comments in an interview with MTV News GD as regional debate continues over Mr. Browne's calls for tougher penalties for serious and repeat criminal offending.

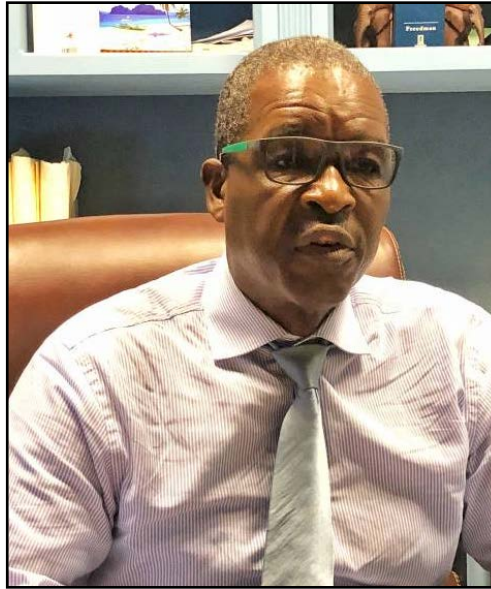
Prime Minister Browne recently proposed chemical castration as a possible additional penalty for repeat child sex offenders, saying stronger measures are needed to protect children. He has also said the Government is preparing amendments to introduce tougher minimum sentences for serious sexual and firearm offences.

Edwin questioned the need for such a measure, pointing to the existing penalties available to courts across the region.

"One wonders what in the 21st century could motivate the leader of a nation to suggest the most barbaric punishment on the face of this earth," Edwin said.

He noted that Antigua and Barbuda has a specialised sexual offences court and argued that courts across the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States have already responded to sexual offences against minors with lengthy prison sentences.

Edwin also pointed to sentences imposed for serious sexual offences elsewhere in the region, including



Grenadian criminal defence attorney Jerry Edwin

a maximum of 30 years in Grenada and life imprisonment in Guyana.

"What more does the Prime Minister of Antigua want?" he questioned, accusing Browne of resorting to extreme proposals to address a difficult social problem.

Edwin further suggested that political considerations could be influencing the Prime Minister's position, although Antigua and Barbuda's next general election is constitutionally due in 2031.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne was swift in his response to attorney Jerry Edwin, rejecting his interpretation, saying his proposal is aimed at repeat offenders and is not connected to electoral politics.

Mr. Browne questioned the lawyer's criticism of the proposal and asked whether repeated sexual offences against children should not also be regarded as barbaric. He made clear that the Government's position is driven by inadequate sentences for some repeat offenders and maintained that although life imprisonment is available as a maximum penalty in Antigua and Barbuda and

other CARICOM jurisdictions, sentencing practices have sometimes resulted in much shorter prison terms.

The Prime Minister said the Government intends to use Parliament to pursue changes to sentencing laws, with amendments being prepared for consideration in October. The proposed reforms are expected to address minimum sentences for serious firearm and sexual offences while retaining some judicial discretion in exceptional circumstances.

Mr. Browne defended chemical castration as an alternative to what he described as harsher penalties, including the death penalty or lengthy imprisonment.

"Chemical castration grounded in law, is certainly a viable alternative compared to a death sentence or 30 years imprisonment," he said.

He also rejected Edwin's characterisation of his proposal as a political stunt, reiterating the need for stronger measures against repeat offenders who sexually violate children.

The Prime Minister accused some criminal defence attorneys of focusing primarily on protecting their clients while giving insufficient attention to victims of sexual offences.

"Edwin should first remove the hubris from his eyes before condemning others.

I am fighting for justice for our young vulnerable girls. Edwin is fighting to protect his livelihood representing criminals."

Mr. Browne maintained that offenders are not the only people whose rights must be considered, arguing that the protection of children and victims must also form part of the justice equation.



POWER PITCH

CALL FOR INVESTMENT-READY PROJECTS

Have a great business idea? This is your opportunity to pitch your project to a panel of potential investors. Shortlisted projects will present at the Commonwealth Business Forum and each presenter will have five (5) minutes to capture the interest of an investor

WHO CAN APPLY

Open to **Antiguan and Barbudan citizens and residents** with investment-ready ventures or business expansion projects.

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- Business plan
- Financial projections and forecasts (Financial projections and forecasts (minimum of 3 years up to 5 years)
- Investor pitch deck
- A marketing plan, market research, proof of local business registration, and other relevant supporting documents

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KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and execute an integrated marketing strategy for the boutique property, rooms, events, catering and related services.
- Increase room occupancy and direct bookings through targeted campaigns, packages, promotions and effective use of online booking channels and OTAs, where applicable.
- Plan and manage digital marketing, including social media, content creation, online advertising, website promotion, email marketing and online reputation management.
- Develop campaigns to grow weddings, private functions, catered events and other revenue-generating activities in both local and visitor markets.
- Build strategic relationships with tourism partners, travel agents, destination-management companies, corporate clients, event planners and other referral partners.
- Maintain consistent branding, imagery and messaging across all platforms and promotional materials.
- Conduct market and competitor analysis to identify new customer segments, commercial opportunities and emerging trends.
- Prepare and manage the marketing budget and direct expenditure toward initiatives that deliver measurable value.
- Establish and monitor key performance indicators, including enquiries, bookings, occupancy, event leads, digital engagement and return on marketing expenditure, and report periodically to management.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Minimum 5 years' progressive marketing experience, preferably in hospitality, tourism, events or a related service industry.
- Demonstrated success in marketing initiatives that increased bookings, sales, customer engagement or revenue.
- Strong digital marketing, social media, content creation and online advertising skills.
- Experience in brand development, campaign planning, market research and performance reporting.
- Excellent written, verbal and relationship-management skills.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

Creative, commercially focused, self-motivated and comfortable working in a small hospitality environment. The successful candidate must be able to think strategically while also executing day-to-day marketing activities and taking ownership of results.

Candidates must be prepared to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends where required, and must be legally entitled to work in Antigua and Barbuda.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and current résumé/CV **no later than 30th September 2026** to info@wglawantigua.com with **Subject line: Vacant Position: Marketing Manager**

Applications will be treated in confidence. Only suitably qualified or shortlisted applicants may be contacted

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SVG to benefit from USD-12M climate resilience fund

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, alongside four other Caribbean nations, has launched a USD 12.55 million regional project to build climate and disaster resilience across the fisheries sector and coastal communities.

The initiative, titled the Climate Change Resilience in the Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH-II), was officially launched at an Inception Meeting in Dominica on September 15, 2026.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project is spearheaded by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and national partners, with implementation running through 2030.

Across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago, more than 21,800 people—including small-scale fisherfolk, boat owners, vendors, traders, and processors—are set to benefit directly from the initiative. The project places special emphasis on advancing leadership, economic opportunities, and livelihood resilience for women and youth in coastal fishing communities.

The project addresses urgent climate threats, including extreme weather events, changing ocean conditions, habitat degradation, and infrastructure damage, which threaten regional food security, local incomes, and key sectors like tourism.

Building on the foundation of the initial CC4FISH project (2017–2022), CC4FISH-II will implement practical interventions across four key pillars

Climate-Ready Boats & Infrastructure: Introducing safer, fuel-efficient fishing vessels while strengthening fish landing sites, processing facilities, and markets against severe weather.



Ecosystem Restoration & Monitoring: Engaging local communities to restore damaged coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, alongside enhanced tracking of marine ecosystem health.

Policy Integration & Financial Access: Incorporating climate adaptation and disaster risk management into national fisheries policies while expanding fisherfolk access to insurance and financial services.

Regional Knowledge Sharing: Establishing a Community of Practice to share best practices and scalable solutions across CARICOM member states

Regional officials highlighted the critical importance of unity in con-

fronting climate challenges. Honourable Lakeyia Joseph, Dominica's Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, noted that no single nation can address climate impacts alone.

Dr. Renata Clarke, FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean, described CC4FISH-II as a vital investment in protecting marine resources and regional food security.

Additionally, CCCCC Executive Director Dr. Colin Young emphasized that the program will equip fishing communities with the tools needed to recover faster and adapt more effectively to climate events. (St Vincent Times)

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‘Float the Barima’ ...Families demand answers, slam systemic failures and unequal payouts

Relatives of victims missing in the MV Barima sinking and family members of maritime staff criminally charged in connection with the disaster returned to the picket line outside the Office of the President on Tuesday.

Protesters criticised systemic injustice, government opacity, and what they termed a slow, reactive state response nearly three months after the vessel went down.

‘Float the Barima’ ...Families demand answers, slam systemic failures and unequal payouts ‘Float the Barima’ ...Families demand answers, slam systemic failures and unequal payouts

Demonstrators demanded the immediate refloating of the vessel, faster proceedings from the Commission of Inquiry (COI), and true accountability from state authorities, accusing officials of scapegoating low-level workers while offering unequal financial support and poor communication to grieving families.

A central point of contention on the picket line was the legal targeting and remand of lower-level Transport and Harbours Department employees, including Goods Superintendent Delon Grandison. Relatives argued that authorities are detaining front-line staff while shielding higher-ranking management responsible for overall safety oversight and maintenance.

Grandison’s mother, Marlene Grandison, maintained her son’s innocence, emphasizing that he was not aboard the vessel when it sank. “He is not supposed to be in prison,” Grandison said, noting her son had completed his day-time shift and was at home when the tragedy occurred at night. “He wasn’t on the boat... He finished working and he came home, and all of a sudden, he ended up in prison. He’s just a goods superintendent.” A relative of missing passengers, Neil and Kenrick Cort echoed these concerns, stating that au-



thorities “jail three men that I would consider at the bottom of the ladder instead of holding those who are accountable, accountable.”

Family members of missing passengers stressed that retrieving the submerged vessel remains the only way to find closure and gather physical evidence for the ongoing investigation.

Tiana Thomas, whose 13-year-old brother Brian Thomas remains unaccounted for following the tragedy, criticised the government’s timeline for salvage operations.

“We need the boat to float because we need some kind of evidence that he died, because we don’t know where he is,” Thomas said. “It’s September... time is going. I feel like when September is done, they’ll forget about me. We’re fighting because we need the boat to float.”

Thomas, whose mother survived the sinking, added that the government’s relief efforts have failed families left without breadwinners or answers, leaving households to fend for themselves.

Protesting families also revealed discrepancies in how the State has distributed financial assistance, alleging that

different households have received varying amounts of relief for funeral expenses without clear explanation. According to family members, while the Cort family received \$650,000 per missing family member to assist with burial costs, other families were provided only \$350,000.

“Why is the figure different? Why are persons getting different amounts?” the Cort family spokesperson asked. “Shouldn’t it be the same across the board? There is no life that is more important than the other. All lives on that boat deserve the same treatment, the same amount of dignity, the same amount of respect.”

Families further criticised the complete lack of direct communication from the State and the COI. Relatives reported learning about major developments, such as the opening of salvage bids 25 days after submission, through public social media channels rather than official State updates.

Demonstrators vowed to continue their weekly protests outside the Office of the President every Tuesday until the MV Barima is refloated and formal proceedings under the Commission of Inquiry commence. (Kaieteur News)

Regional News

1,200 back on the job as Royalton reopens Trelawny resorts

Nearly 11 months after Hurricane Melissa forced their closure, Royalton's two Trelawny resorts reopened their doors Tuesday morning, welcoming their first set of guests and putting approximately 1,200 tourism workers back on at the job.

Royalton Blue Waters, and Royalton Hideaway Blue Waters, both Auto-graph Collection properties, returned 578 rooms to Jamaica's tourism inventory following extensive repairs, refurbishment and upgrades in the wake of the Category Five hurricane.

The reopening comes with encouraging signs of demand, with the properties starting operations at approximately 60 per cent occupancy and commanding room rates higher than those achieved before Hurricane Melissa.

Kerry-Ann Quallo-Casserly, regional commercial director for Jamaica at Royalton Hotels and Resorts, told The Gleaner that forward bookings are also strong.

The resorts are already sold out for the Heroes Weekend period, while Thanksgiving occupancy is running at approximately 80 per cent and Christmas at 90 per cent.

"It's fantastic," Quallo-Casserly said, noting that the company's sales operation never stopped during the closure.

For the tourism-dependent communities surrounding the resorts, however, perhaps the most significant number attached to today's reopening is the approximately 1,200 employees returning to work.

Quallo-Casserly said the company retained approximately 98 per cent of its employees, including workers who had sought employment elsewhere during the prolonged shutdown.

"Part of that restoration has to come from the heart. We have to show that we care. We have to acknowledge and recognise our employees."



Royalton Blue Waters, the family-oriented resort, underwent the more extensive renovation of the two properties.

Guestrooms were refreshed with changes to colours, fixtures, bedding and some furniture, while lobby and other common areas were refurbished.

Poolside areas were upgraded with new umbrellas and lounge chairs, and new branding and signage have also been installed.

Hideaway at Royalton Blue Waters, the adults-only resort, had undergone a major renovation approximately three years earlier and therefore received a

less extensive refresh. However, it required substantial repairs after sustaining damage during Melissa.

Quallo-Casserly said glass in lobby and buffet areas was shattered during the hurricane, while roofing was also damaged.

The company used the closure to address roofing, plumbing, air-conditioning and other maintenance issues while examining guest reviews and previous feedback to identify areas where the overall experience could be improved.

The properties are reopening with 11 restaurants, nine bars and five swim-

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Regional News

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ming pools, along with enhanced common areas and improvements to the Diamond Club butler service for selected room categories.

Menus have also been reviewed, with Quallo-Casserly saying the company has sought to better anticipate the expectations of Jamaican and North American guests, as well as travellers from the United Kingdom, Europe and the increasingly important Latin American market.

With destinations such as St Lucia, Barbados and Grenada increasingly competing in the all-inclusive market and commanding higher rates, Quallo-Casserly said Jamaica's hotel sector must continue raising its service standards.

Royalton also remained active in the marketplace throughout the months its Jamaican resorts were closed, maintaining relationships with travel advisers, tour operators and customers rather than waiting until shortly before reopening to resume selling.

Quallo-Casserly said that strategy is now reflected in the forward bookings for the Trelawny properties.

Tuesday's reopening follows the August 25 return of Royalton's three Negril resorts, Royalton Negril, Hideaway at Royalton Negril and Grand Lido Negril, which together account for another 573 rooms.

Quallo-Casserly said the Negril properties have already exceeded the occupancies projected for their reopening.

She credited the performance to continued support from travel partners and customers and to the company's decision to maintain its presence in the marketplace throughout the shutdown.

"We never made the mistake to say we're closed and let us just wait until three months prior to opening," she said.

Instead, she said, the commercial team continued working immediately after the hurricane, examining how Royalton could strengthen its position not only against traditional compet-

itors in Mexico and the Dominican Republic, but against emerging all-inclusive competition elsewhere in the Caribbean

The reopening of the Trelawny resorts now marks another major step

in Royalton's recovery in Jamaica, restoring hundreds more rooms to the island's tourism inventory and returning another 1,200 employees to work. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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



Iran war has cost the U.S. more than \$38B, budget office says

The U.S. war against Iran has cost the Department of Defense more than \$38 billion through Aug. 1 and will continue costing up to \$3 billion a month or more depending on the intensity of the conflict, according to an assessment released Tuesday by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

CBO said the war is expected to contribute to inflation into the first quarter of 2027, making inflation roughly 0.5 percentage points higher than they had previously estimated. That's driven largely by the reduction of oil and natural gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and disruptions to shipping through the Red Sea.

The estimate, prepared in response to a request for information from the top Democrat on the House Budget committee, Rep. Brendan Boyle, largely aligns with a previous estimate from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who pinned the costs at \$37.5 billion, according to his Senate testimony.

The estimates come largely from replacing munitions and equipment lost in battle, the CBO said, and do not include costs related to U.S. military personnel killed or injured in the conflict or longer term veterans' health-care and disability compensation.

Boyle said that beyond with the war's human toll, "this nonpartisan CBO report makes clear that the war has also cost American taxpayers tens of billions of dollars and counting, while continuing to drive up costs."

"Donald Trump and Republicans have spent years telling Americans that we cannot afford to help families here at home," Boyle said in a statement, "but apparently they can find tens of billions of dollars, and potentially much more, for a reckless war that is leaving Americans to pay the price."

The findings come as voters eye the war and high prices heading toward the midterm elections that will determine control of Congress, where Re-



publicans now hold majority power in the House and Senate. The war, which started Feb. 28, is now in its seventh month, with no signs of a quick end to the on-off conflict.

The White House made a request for \$87.6 billion in supplemental funding in June, largely for the war effort, but Congress has not approved it. CBO said the portion of that request that appears to be directly related to the conflict, \$42.3 billion, is about 10% larger than CBO's estimate of DoD's costs.

The Office of Management and Budget sent the supplemental spending request on Wednesday. It arrived just hours after President Donald Trump assailed Republican senators during a private lunch — engaging in a shouting match with one — over their votes to approve a war powers resolution that would halt further hostilities.

The request is mostly for expenses incurred by the Defense Department as part of Operation Epic Fury, the U.S.-led attack on Iran. But it also includes a range of other items, including \$11.1 billion toward economic assistance for American farmers, \$1.4 billion for the Ebola virus outbreak in Central Africa

and \$500 million to support ongoing efforts "to complete restoration and construction projects in and around Washington, D.C."

"I urge the Congress to take action on these important and urgent requests as soon as possible," said OMB Director Russ Vought in a letter to House Speaker Mike Johnson.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said, "President Trump is asking taxpayers to clean up his messes, to the tune of \$87.6 billion."

"After dragging America into a reckless war, he now wants Congress to hand him tens of billions more to paper over the damage — while families are still paying higher prices."

It's unclear how quickly the House and Senate could act on the White House's request, or if Congress takes up the matter at all. The funding faces a difficult path because many lawmakers could view any votes as a reflection of test of their support for the war effort.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth returned to Capitol Hill on Wednesday briefing House GOP lawmakers from the conservative Republican Study

Committee on the Pentagon's budgetary needs. The White House is seeking as much as \$1.5 trillion in defense spending in this year's budget, a nearly 50% increase over previous levels.

But many lawmakers have complained they have yet to receive any formal briefing from the administration on the Iran war, nearly four months after it was launched, and as Trump's team is now working to secure a fragile ceasefire and bring an end to the conflict.

Washington Sen. Patty Murray, the lead Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the request is not merely to pay for "the president's disastrous war, but an attempt to secure tens of billions of additional dollars for unrelated Pentagon priorities."

Murray said she would review to ensure servicemembers are taken care of, "but I will not rubberstamp tens of billions more for this disastrous war of choice."

Yet the White House was clear to in-

clude provisions to interest lawmakers from various regions, including \$1 billion to assist "the final design and construction of a modernized Penn Station in New York City," which would be of interest to Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, both of New York.

Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Cal., who chairs the panel's subcommittee on Defense, said in a joint statement, "President Trump's request reflects the reality that our defense strength must be maintained, not merely demonstrated."

The bulk of the request, \$67 billion, is to replenish the Pentagon from the Iran war. The largest portion of that defense funding, \$21 billion, would go to weapons and munitions, with another \$17.3 billion for operational costs and \$12.1 billion for other classified programs. Funds are also requested to cover fuel costs, drone manufacturing

and cybersecurity.

The money for farmers would provide \$10 billion in economic assistance to row and specialty crop farmers and \$1.1 billion specifically to Florida agriculture producers who suffered losses from this past year's winter storms.

The package also includes a collection of policy proposals that the administration strongly supports, and which are certain to raise interest among lawmakers.

Among them, the package proposes revisions to federal regulations of hemp products that have long been in dispute, changes to the year-round sales of renewable fuels and lifting of restrictions around federal investment support in Venezuela.

The administration also requested \$550 million to prevent and detect the Ebola virus in Congo, where an outbreak has killed more than 250 people. Another \$800 million would go to provide humanitarian assistance to the region. (AP)



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Eight children among 21 killed after war-damaged Gaza building collapses, rescuers say



At least 21 people have been killed, including eight children, and dozens are missing after a war-damaged building collapsed in the Gaza Strip overnight, local rescuers and medics say.

Witnesses told the BBC that the six-storey building in the Tal al-Hawa area of Gaza City had been left tilting dangerously to one side after an Israeli strike more than a year ago. Displaced families were living inside because they were desperate, they said.

UN agencies and an Egyptian team have joined the search for survivors, but officials say it is proceeding slowly due to a lack of equipment.

In the initial rescue effort, members of the Hamas-run Civil Defence agency resorted to using their bare hands.

“We are still hearing voices from under the rubble, so there is still hope to find people,” said Raed al-Dahshan, the director of the Civil Defence in Gaza City.

He added: “The limited availability

of shelter options forced residents to move into this building, believing it was safe. However, at one point it collapsed entirely, tragically crashing down on people as they slept.”

“It felt like an earthquake. There was a loud sound and I couldn’t stand up. Stones rained down on us and when I looked outside I saw a lot of dust,” she told the BBC. “Within minutes, there were screams everywhere.”

Another witness, Mansour Abu Mohammed, said the building collapsed “in a few seconds”.

“Every day, a stone or a few stones would fall from it, but the people inside couldn’t find anywhere else to live. I used to live next door to it and you could see that it was tilting to one side.”

Locals said some 10 families had been living in the building’s apartments.

Satellite imagery shows that the area around the building was targeted in the early weeks of the war, while damage to the building itself

first became evident in 2024.

The head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gaza office, Alessandro Mrakic, told reporters at the scene that between 70 and 100 people were believed to be trapped under the rubble.

“The situation, as you see, is tragic because we don’t have the equipment and machinery that is needed. There are actually people digging with their bare hands,” he said.

Mrakic also warned that approximately 400 other war-damaged buildings across Gaza were at imminent risk of collapse, particularly as winter approaches.

“We need support, most importantly with machinery, equipment, among others. Our colleagues here don’t have [engine] oil and spare parts to continue to work with all the equipment that is still in Gaza.”

The UN’s humanitarian relief co-ordinator, Ramiz Alakbarov, said he was “devastated” by the reports of the building collapse.

“No-one should have to risk their life simply to find a safe place to shelter,” he said.

He also urged Israeli authorities to approve deliveries to Gaza of heavy machinery for rescue operations, as well as tents, tarpaulins and other non-food items for displaced people ahead of the winter rains.

Israel says its restrictions are meant to keep equipment out of the hands of Palestinian armed groups that

could also have military uses.

An estimated 80% of all structures in Gaza have been destroyed or damaged during the war between Israel and Hamas, according to the UN.

More than 1.9 million people - about 90% of the territory's population - have been displaced, many of them multiple times, and 1.2 million of them are currently living in tents or makeshift shelters, it says.

The UN has warned that the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire despite the ceasefire agreed last October, as Israeli air strikes and other attacks continue to hit populated areas, causing casualties and property damage and driving further displacement.

On Tuesday, Israeli air strikes killed at least five Palestinians, including two children and a Hamas commander, according to health officials and Hamas sources.

The Israeli military said it killed a Hamas commander in southern Gaza and another fighter in the north. In both cases, a child was also reportedly killed.

Separately, the British charity Medical Aid for Palestinians said that a patient was killed by an Israeli drone at a health centre it supports in Jabalia in northern Gaza. A spokesperson for the Israeli military told the BBC it was not aware of such an incident.

The Gaza war was triggered by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, when about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage.

Since then, more than 73,790 people have been killed in Gaza, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the UN. (BBC)



EU chief backs plan for Canada to become 'associate member'



The president of the European Commission has backed proposals for Canada to become the EU's first "associate member".

Ursula von der Leyen told the European Parliament on Wednesday she wanted to work on "opening the door" for Canada, which would involve closer ties on various key sectors.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney last week spoke of seeking a "unique alliance" with the EU. The country currently faces tense relations with the US, compounded by an intensifying dispute over trade.

Without mentioning US President Donald Trump by name, von der Leyen said offering Canada some sort of EU membership was "not a partnership against anyone else, but for our common strength".

She added: "Partnerships are a strategic choice for Europe. But they also respond to the fracture in the international rules-based system".

Carney was in attendance at the an-

nual key note speech in Strasbourg, and is due to address the parliament on Thursday.

Trade talks between Canada and the US collapsed last month, sparking a series of new tariff measures. Trump's repeated talk of making Canada a "51st state" has also helped to fuel the feud between the North American neighbours.

Von der Leyen told the EU's State of the Union address that the bloc and Canada "see the world with the same eyes", including on topics ranging from AI, to climate change and geopolitics.

"And we have stood together: on Ukraine, on defence, on raw materials and on supply chains. But above all... Europe and Canada believe in democracy.

She did not give specific details on how any Canadian membership would work, but listed manufacturing, technology, AI, defence, energy, critical minerals and economic secu-

rity as key areas for cooperation.

Both she and other European leaders have found a reliable ally in Carney as they deal with similar problems.

In particular, they have faced Trump's aggressive use of tariffs and his threat to annex Greenland which is a sovereign territory of EU member Denmark.

But "associate membership" of the EU does not currently exist and the process, if agreed, could take years.

Earlier this year, Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz suggested - to a mixed reaction - that Ukraine could be granted this new status.

Some countries in the western Balkans including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia are already on the long road towards full EU membership.

In Eastern Europe, Georgia and Moldova are also applying.

Ten of the bloc's 27 members are yet to ratify a free-trade agreement struck

with Ottawa nearly a decade ago, and some capitals would prefer to build on existing defence and trade agreements rather than create a new form of membership for Canada.

“For a long time, we have discussed a leaders’ format focused on the security of our continent, with partners like Canada, Norway, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and others involved,” she said in the wide-ranging address.

“This is even more urgent now, given the nature and scale of the risks at play. This is why we will set out our ideas to make a European Security Council a reality.”

Calls for such a body have been growing since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

It was initially a French-German conception but more countries have shown support, particularly as Trump has questioned the Nato military alliance. Other nations worry such a council could unhelpfully rival Nato.

Von der Leyen said the EU was “strengthening our work with Nato” and that expanded defence spending would be “fully aligned” with the alliance.

But at the core of such a security council would be the ability to trigger an emergency meeting if one member felt under threat, similar to Nato’s Article 4.

The EU chief said it would be a “mechanism to flank” Article 4, a term that could be interpreted as complementing Nato functions or - if taken in a military context - bypassing them.

Alongside global threats, von der Leyen also said many European families were worried about the cost of living, and the “dizzying speed of change” of technology and its impacts on jobs and society.

Other proposals included inviting the world’s largest AI labs for talks on how to support industry efforts to pace the frontier, as well as slashing bureaucracy for businesses in the EU.

Plans to curb social media use among children, including banning platforms for under 13s, were also put forward. Under the proposal, children aged 13 to 15 would only be able to set up social media accounts which are supervised by parents.

A new emergency tool to help countries better deal with mass migration

movements following the deadly influx of migrants to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in July would also be outlined.

The pledge chimes with the message of European politicians on the right and hard right who have gained support in recent years for proposing a tougher approach.

Some of them called the mass attempt to enter the EU through Ceuta an “invasion” and argued asylum rules should be suspended to deal with such a crisis.

Von der Leyen said the new emergency tool would “only be triggered under a strictly defined set of criteria” and for a specific period of time, and that fundamental rights would be protected.

Human rights groups worry such a move would see vulnerable people, including women and children, turned back and denied the protection afforded to them under international law. (BBC)

‘Encouraging signs’ in DR Congo Ebola fight: WHO

The Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo is still spreading but appears to be showing “encouraging” signs of improvement, the head of the World Health Organization said on Wednesday.

“We are starting to see encouraging signs that we’re gaining ground,” Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news conference in Geneva. (AFP)



Charlie Kirk's family says security failures by Utah officials led to his assassination

Charlie Kirk's family blamed Utah officials for failing to prevent the conservative activist's assassination at a state university, in a wrongful death notice announced Wednesday that presages a possible lawsuit.

Attorneys for the family said Kirk's death resulted from a string of "reckless decisions" by officials at Utah Valley University that left him exposed to a rooftop sniper, who fired a fatal shot from more than 400 feet (122 meters) away on Sept. 10, 2025. The university has faced harsh criticism for a lack of key safety measures on the day of the shooting.

Kirk, 31, had been debating students in an outdoor courtyard surrounded by tall buildings and with several thousand people in attendance. An Associated Press review following the shooting showed the campus in Orem did not use several public safety practices that have become standard safeguards at events around the country.

Campus police staffing was far below recommended levels for a school of that size. They also did not fly a drone to monitor rooftops or coordinate with local law enforcement to secure the event attended by about 3,000 people. There were no bag checks or metal detectors.

"The risk of a rooftop shooter should have been especially top-of-mind given the attempted assassination of President Trump, Charlie Kirk's close friend and political ally, by a rooftop shooter the previous year," Kirk family attorney D. Loren Washburn wrote in the notice to state and university officials.

The document, dated Sept. 9, a day before the one-year anniversary of Kirk's death, is a required step under state law before his family can file a formal claim or lawsuit. It names the university and its then-president, Astrid Tuminez; the campus police department and its chief, Jeffrey Long; and the state of Utah.



A spokesperson for Utah Valley University said the school was aware of the notice and would address it "consistent with our established processes."

"Our focus remains on supporting our campus community," spokesperson Sharon Turner said in a statement.

The Utah Attorney General's Office said it does not comment on potential litigation.

Attorneys for Kirk's family alleged additional lapses by officials, including not conducting an adequate risk assessment before approving the event, failing to establish a secure perimeter and having no first responders immediately available, resulting in Kirk being taken to a nearby hospital in a private vehicle rather than an ambulance after he was shot.

"Tragically, the UVU Parties took none of these safety measures — steps only they had the authority to take — resulting in a situation that rendered Mr. Kirk helpless before his assassin," Washburn wrote.

Long said after the shooting that six of his officers staffed the event and coordinated with Kirk's eight-person private security team. The school said it was expanding its police force fol-

lowing the shooting.

Utah resident Tyler Robinson turned himself in a day after Kirk's killing. Prosecutors say he told his romantic partner that he "had enough of his (Kirk's) hatred."

Robinson is charged with aggravated murder, making him eligible for the death penalty if convicted. A judge on Sept. 1 ordered the case to proceed toward trial. A date has not yet been set.

Prosecutors during a preliminary hearing in July presented what they characterized as overwhelming evidence against Robinson. That includes surveillance video of Robinson on the campus, DNA tests linking him to a rifle found near the assassination site and a handwritten note he allegedly left for his romantic partner that read, "I had the opportunity to take out Charlie Kirk, and I took it."

Kirk's parents, Robert and Kathryn Kirk, and widow, Erika Kirk, attended the hearings.

State law allows heirs or personal representatives of people who die to file lawsuits seeking damages if the death was caused by a wrongful act or negligence. The notice from Kirk's family did not specify what damages they may seek. (AP)



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More success for CTM Auto Spa & APCMOL in ABBA Business League

Newcomers CTM Auto Spa and APCMOL maintained their winning starts to their campaigns in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on Tuesday evening.

CTM Auto Spa secured their second straight win with a 69-49 victory over Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) in the second game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Donte Trimmingham sank 14 points, and Javon Andrew and Andrew Simon each scored 12 points for CTM Auto Spa.

Ricky Willock shot a game-high 21 points, and Raheem Charles converted 10 points for SLBMC, who remain winless after suffering their third defeat in as many games.

APCMOL also claimed their second win in as many matches by surging to a 69-50 victory over newcomers Curtain Bluff Hotel in Tuesday's last game.

Humroy Wright sank 12 points, and Judah Ferris and Amare Browne each converted 10 points for APCMOL. Javonte Daley produced a game-high 17 points, and Shalom Bloodman scored 11 points for Curtain Bluff Hotel, who slumped to their second loss in as many games.

But another newcomer, the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT), recorded their first win in Tuesday's opening match.

After suffering a 50-82 loss to Anjo Wholesale in their debut encounter, the ABUT rebounded to pull off a 59-

49 victory over Christos in their second game.

Israel Clarke and Lena Mills each scored 19 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers. Bruce White shot a game-high 22 points, and Tyreek John converted 10 points for Christos, who lost for the second time in as many outings.

The business basketball league will continue with another triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday evening.

The Philippines will take on Curtain Bluff Hotel at 6:30 pm, Sledge'O Ballers will face CTM Auto Spa at 7:30 pm, and Sandals will meet the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers at 8:30 pm.



ABFA mourns the passing of Ivor Davis and Carver Browne



Members of the ABFA executive observe a moment of silence in respect of the passing of Ivor Davis and Carver Browne during the Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF) Executive Mentorship Programme (EMP) it hosted last weekend. (ABFA)

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) has learned with deep sadness of the passing of Ivor Davis, former long-serving president of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Referees Association, and Carver Browne, former Empire and national team footballer.

On behalf of the President, the Executive Committee, the secretariat, member clubs, and the wider football family, the ABFA extends its condolences to their families, friends, and colleagues via a media release.

Davis gave the greater part of his life to match officiating in Antigua and Barbuda. An active referee for many years, he went on to lead the

Antigua and Barbuda Football Referees Association as its president for more than three decades.

Across those years he recruited, trained, mentored, and defended generations of match officials, and he held the line on the standards by which the game of football is judged.

Browne represented Empire Football Club and went on to wear the colours of the Antigua and Barbuda national team on the football field, where, in his heyday, he was regarded as one of the most feared defenders in the game.

Browne was the uncompromising marker his coaches turned to when-

ever the opposition fielded a player who had to be stopped. He also represented Antigua in cricket as a fast bowler.

“These are two men who served our football in very different ways, and both served it fully,” said ABFA President Ickford Roberts.

“Ivor Davis protected the integrity of the game for more than 30 years, and Carver Browne defended his club and his country with a courage that supporters of that era still speak about. We have lost a great deal in a short time. Our sympathies are with the Davis and Browne families.”

Sports News

Wins for UWI and Ministry of Education in ABNA Business League



The University of the West Indies netball team

There were wins for the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Ministry of Education in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) Business League Competition on Monday.

Both teams recorded commanding victories over the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters in a Female Division double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The University of the West Indies claimed a 34-6 victory over the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters B team.

Joy Shaw netted 28 of her 45 attempts, and Trevisha Phillip sank six of her eight shots for UWI. Haleema Pierre converted three of her six attempts, and Alisha Jeremy scored two of her

five shots for the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters B team.

The Ministry of Education launched their campaign with a 29-6 victory over the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters A team.

Karol Carlton sank 17 of her 24 shots, and Adina Andre converted 12 of her 24 attempts for the Ministry of Education. Sophia Wilkins netted three of her nine shots, and Sequoyah Survia scored three of her 10 attempts for the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters A team.

Following a march past and a brief official opening center, Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders snatched a narrow 17-13 victory over Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters in the Mixed Division

in their first match of the competition on Sunday.

The competition is bringing together teams representing businesses and organizations in an exciting display of skill, teamwork, and competitive spirit across both female and mixed divisions.

Games are being played on Monday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The competition will resume with two matches on Thursday. The Ministry of Tourism will face the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters A team in a female division affair at 6:30 pm, and the Ministry of Education will clash with Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders in the mixed division at 7:30 pm.

India pick Kohli, Rohit for West Indies ODIs

MUMBAI (Reuters) - Stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma headline India's One-Day International squad for their upcoming home series against the West Indies, while Vipraj Nigam has replaced injured spinner Varun Chakaravathy in the Asian Games squad.

Top-order batter Shubman Gill will captain India in the three-match ODI series, with wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul named vice-captain, while batting all-rounder Naman Dhir and bowler Auqib Nabi have earned their maiden ODI call-ups.

The ODI series begins in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on September 27.

For the Twenty20 series against the West Indies, 15-year-old prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has been included in the squad, which is led by top-order batter Shreyas Iyer.

India will play five T20 internationals against the West Indies, starting in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on October 6.

India will also play a one-off T20 international against Japan on September 22, before beginning their Asian Games campaign at the quarter-final stage six days later.

Chakaravathy has been ruled out of both the Japan T20 and the Asian Games with a side strain. All-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy, who was originally named in the Asian Games squad, has been withdrawn and included in the ODI squad for the West Indies series instead.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant are notable absentees from India's squads for the West Indies ODI and T20 series, the Japan T20 and the Asian Games.

India ODI Squad vs West Indies: Shubman Gill (captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KL Rahul (VC), Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep



Rohit Sharma, left, and Virat Kohli headline India's One-Day International squad for their upcoming home series against the West Indies.

Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Mohammed Siraj, Auqib Nabi, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Naman Dhir.

India T20 Squad vs West Indies: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Tilak Varma (VC), Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, and

Mayank Yadav.

India Updated Squad for Japan T20 and Asian Games: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Ishan Kishan (WK), Shivam Dube, Tilak Varma (VC), Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Yash Thakur, and Vipraj Nigam.

ABFA names squad for CONCACAF Nations League



The four teams will battle in the first round of matches at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua from Wednesday, September 23, to Tuesday, September 29. All matches will start at 7 pm.

The Antigua and Barbuda Benna Boys will launch their campaign against Aruba on September 23. The Antiguanians will face Anguilla in their second game on Saturday, September 26. Anguilla and Aruba will clash in the last first-round encounter on September 29.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) has named a 26-member senior men's national squad to represent the twin-island state at the 2026/27 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF) Nations League.

The squad includes goalkeepers Shahoï Dorsett, Taj Moore, and Zaeem Scott. Also selected are defenders Roneba Cordice, Amir Daley, Leroy Graham, Quinton Griffith, Tyrik Hughes, Kylano Isaac, and Blaivon James.

The midfielders chosen are Dajari Barthley, TJ Bramble, Vaughn Jackson Jr., Kwame Kirby, Shalon Knight, Daryl Massicott, Jahzino O'Garro, Dion Pereira, and Sean Tomlinson.

Completing the squad are forwards D'Andre Bishop, Raheem Deterville, Christopher Douglas, Kayonte George, Keon Greene, Ashley Nathaniel-George, and Brandon Satchell.

The supporting staff comprises Head Coach Jacques Passy; assistant coaches Derrick "Pretty Boy" Edwards and Donovan Peart; goalkeeper coach Janiel "Beard" Simon; Manager Shaun George; physiotherapist Keston Daley; trainer William Richards; and equipment manager Jerry Aska.

After being relegated from League B last year, Antigua and Barbuda will host and compete in Group B of League C, which also includes the national teams of Anguilla and Aruba, in September and October this year.

The teams will battle in the second round of matches at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium during the first week in October.

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys will tackle Anguilla on Thursday, October 1. Aruba and Anguilla will clash on Sunday, October 4, and Antigua and Barbuda will take on Aruba in the final League C Group B encounter on Tuesday, October 6.

The winner of League C Group B will gain promotion to compete in League B in the next edition of the CONCACAF Nations League.

All group winners will also be in contention to secure a berth into the CONCACAF Gold Cup, which will be held in June and July next year.