

Foreign Minister Greene wants A United OECS To Combat External Threats

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Members of the Girl Guides Movement of Antigua and Barbuda at the service held at the Ebenezer Methodist Church celebrating 95 years of the movement in the country

Local News



Foreign Minister Greene wants A United OECS To Combat External Threats

Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, is calling for 'disciplined collective action' among OECS Member countries as he noted that the external environment confronting these countries is more unsettled, less accommodating and more coercive than at any point in recent decades.

Minister Greene's remarks were made at the Tenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers Foreign Affairs in his capacity as Incoming Chair of the OECS Council of Ministers Foreign Affairs. The meeting is taking place in New York on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly starting this week.

According to Minister Greene he is taking up the appointment at a time when the OECS faces serious headwinds from an increasingly unfriendly international environment.

"The rules-based international trading system is being weakened by nationalist and protectionist policies. Terms of trade are tighten-



Minister Greene arrives in New York and is being briefed by H.E. Aubrey Webson

ing, supply chains remain vulnerable, and our dependence on one major market for much of our food, goods, services and transport exposes us to decisions over which we have little influence.

"Visa restrictions and changing entry requirements are disrupting business, study, family life and official engagement. At the same time, our countries face continuing pressure

over legitimate development initiatives, including international financial services and citizenship by investment programmes," he observed.

The A&B Foreign Minister wants the OECS to face the current realities without illusion, but not without confidence.

He noted that the OECS already possesses tools that other groups of sovereign states have spent genera-

tions trying to create.

"We have a single currency and Central Bank, an Economic Union with freedom of movement, a common Supreme Court, joint institutions and a long record of pooling authority where common action serves us better.

"Among sovereign states, ours is one of the deepest integration arrangements in the world, second only in important respects to the European Union.

"The issue is not whether we possess a platform. It is whether we are prepared to use it fully," he declared.

Minister Greene suggested a number of actions which the OECS can take to buttress them from economic gloom; first, the OECS must expand trade in goods and services among themselves; second, they should build more shared institutions and services; third, air and sea transportation must be treated as essential economic infrastructure and fourth, they must reduce excessive dependence on a single supply market.

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Minister of State Freeland Travels to Monaco To Promote Yachting Sector

Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism Michael Freeland is representing Antigua and Barbuda at the 35th Monaco Yacht Show; one of the world's most influential gatherings for the luxury yachting industry.

The four-day event, scheduled for September 23 to 26 at Port Hercule, will place Freeland in direct contact with yacht owners, charter brokers, shipbuilders, captains, designers, investors and marine-service companies from across the globe.

Antigua and Barbuda's participation has traditionally been led by Tourism Minister Charles "Max" Fernandez. This year, Freeland will carry the country's message to Monaco as the government seeks to strengthen its presence in the high-value yachting market and attract more vessels, charter clients and marine investment to the destination.

More than 560 exhibitors are expected to participate in the show, while approximately 120 superyachts will be displayed, including 43 vessels delivered in 2026. The on-water exhibition will also feature more than 60 luxury tenders and some of the newest yachts available for purchase, charter and private inspection.

The 2026 programme will go beyond displaying luxury vessels. Leading international shipyards, brokerage firms, naval architects, yacht-management companies, equipment manufacturers and marine-technology providers will showcase their latest products and services.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the Monaco Yacht Show provides an opportunity to promote the twin-island state as more than a picturesque cruising destination. Freeland will be able to highlight its established marinas, historic harbours, marine-service professionals, provisioning companies and the world-renowned sailing environment surrounding English Harbour and Falmouth Harbour.

The country is already an important winter base for yachts crossing the At-



Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism Michael Freeland

lantic from Europe. A stronger presence in Monaco could help convert industry relationships into additional charter

calls, longer stays and increased participation in events such as the Antigua Charter Yacht Show and Antigua Sailing Week.

The benefits could extend well beyond yacht owners. Each visiting vessel creates economic activity for marina operators, taxi drivers, restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, fuel suppliers, maintenance companies, tradespeople and dozens of other businesses supporting the marine sector.

Freeland's attendance will also allow Antigua and Barbuda to hold discussions with charter brokers and yacht managers who influence where vessels travel and spend the winter season. Those connections are critical because recommendations made by brokers, captains and management companies can determine which Caribbean destinations are included in luxury charter itineraries.


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The Festivals Commission Launches A New Department To Help Develop Local Talent

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has taken a significant step towards strengthening the nation's creative economy with the launch of its Music Production & Artist Development Department, a dedicated unit focused on nurturing local talent, elevating Antigua and Barbuda's musical identity, and creating pathways for artists to thrive regionally and internationally.

The new department represents a long-term investment in the country's music industry, providing emerging artists with the tools, production, mentorship, music video production and professional development needed to build sustainable careers. Through structured programmes, participants will receive vocal coaching, songwriting support, performance training, music production and stage development, while gaining direct access to established producers, songwriters, and performers from across the Caribbean.

A key component of the initiative will be a series of songwriting workshops, masterclasses and writers' camps designed to help artists sharpen their craft, collaborate with fellow creatives, and produce commercially competitive music. While the programme is open to all artists, it will continue to identify and cultivate new talent from communities across Antigua and Barbuda.

ABFC Chairperson Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul described the initiative as a transformational step for the country's music industry and a key pillar of the Commission's Orange Economy agenda. *"We believe the time has come to make a serious investment in Antigua and Barbuda's music industry. Our artists possess immense talent, yet many have not consistently had access to the resources, mentorship, and profession-*



Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul

al development opportunities needed to reach their full potential. Through the Music Production & Artist Development Department, we are creating a structured pathway that prioritizes talent development, collaboration, and industry readiness.

Ambassador Makhoul also announced plans to establish a professional recording and production facility to further strengthen the local music ecosystem. *"The Commission, with support from Cabinet, is committed to developing a professional music studio that will give artists access to experienced producers, engineers, and songwriters.*

The goal is clear: create music that remains unmistakably Antiguan and Barbudan while resonating with audiences beyond the nation's shores. According to **Devon "ChippyG" Joseph Jr., Lead of Music Production & Artist Development**, the department's mission is centered on preparing artists for long-term success. *"Our priority is the artist. We want to help young Antiguan and Barbudan talent develop their skills, build confidence, and gain the exposure needed to grow professionally. An important part of that process is creating opportunities for them to collaborate with established artists and industry professionals throughout*

the region. The Sugar Mill Riddim is one example of that vision in action, but it is only the beginning. We have additional collaborations already in development, all aimed at helping our artists expand their reach, build meaningful industry connections, and compete on a global stage."

Regional collaboration will remain a cornerstone of the department's strategy, with established projects such as **Black Pineapple Riddim** marking an important chapter in the ongoing evolution of the Antiguan sound. It is a bold, intentional exploration of the identity, rhythm, and spirit of Antigua and Barbuda through music. Drawing on legendary Antiguan musical influences such as Burning Flames and blending them with contemporary Caribbean and R&B sonic textures, the riddim captures both tradition and innovation in a single, powerful production.

The **Sugar Mill Riddim** is a collaborative project featuring Antiguan artists **Zafema, Tian Winter, and Young Lyrics**, produced by **Devon "ChippyG" Joseph Jr.** in partnership with Trinidadian producer **Kitwana Israel of Advokit Productions**. The project also features internationally acclaimed soca artist **Patrice Roberts**, underscoring the type of cross-Caribbean partnerships the Commission intends to foster.

As part of the next phase of the project, the Sugar Mill Riddim will be re-released as part of an expanded regional promotional campaign, supported by new music videos, targeted radio promotion in Trinidad and Tobago, and strategic marketing initiatives to increase visibility for Antiguan and Barbudan artists across the Caribbean market.

St. Paul's MP Decries Weekend Shooting, Robbery In Liberta



The Member of Parliament for St Paul constituency, E.P Chet Greene, has issued a statement strongly condemning two acts of violence that occurred in the usually tranquil village of Liberta on Friday night.

Two people were affected by the violence; Vere 'Pele' Joseph of Liberta was shot by unknown assailant(s) and is recovering in the Sir Lester

Bird Medical Centre while Cynthia Thwaites, businesswoman who has been vending at the Ya Sah So corner of close to thirty years was robbed at gunpoint. While Thwaites was not physically harmed in the incident, the encounter has left her mentally scarred and emotionally distraught.

"I condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the cowardly robbery of Cynthia Thwaites and the shooting of Vere 'Pele' Joseph in Liberta Village last night. As Member of Parliament for the St. Paul's constituency and on behalf of every resident of this community, I express profound shock and outrage at this brazen attack on our people," MP Greene declared.

"Let me be unequivocal: crime has arrived at our doorstep and it will not be tolerated. The growing scourge of criminality now threatens the very peace, safety and security of our community and it demands an immediate, unified and uncompromising response from every one of us."

According to the MP, he has already instituted a series of measures designed to combat the threat of increasing violence in the wider St. Paul community. Among the actions put in motion was dispatching a letter to Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers requesting sustained police patrols in support of the business community, which has become the primary target of these criminals.

MP Greene also wants the police to scale up their vigilance; install security cameras as well as joining or forming community watches.

Residents are asked to report any suspicious activity as silence only serves to embolden the criminals, while co-operation defeats their purpose.

Greene, who is also the Foreign Affairs Minister noted that he is currently away on Government Business, however, on his return he intends to convene a townhall meeting on October 8 to discuss the crime issue.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

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-Leg and Thigh
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-Medium Drink
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Local News

The Country's First All-Girls Robotics Team Prepares for Global Challenge



Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Daryll Matthew, recently met with the members of Team Antigua and Barbuda as the country's first ever all-girls robotics team continues preparations to represent the nation at the 2026 *FIRST* Global Challenge in Incheon, Republic of Korea from October 1 – 12.

The meeting gave Minister Matthew an opportunity to hear directly from the five students about their journey into robotics, and taking a closer look at the strategy, as well as the engineering behind their competition robot.



The students walked the Minister through their approach to collecting, storing, lifting, climbing and scoring game elements, while explaining how their design has evolved through continuous building and testing. They also discussed the importance of competing

with a robot that can cooperate effectively alongside teams from other countries to be able to make it into the finals.

The conversation naturally turned to one of the most important lessons from the team's journey: **innovation rarely**

happens perfectly on the first attempt.

“One of the things that we take for granted is critical thinking, just because your first version doesn't work, doesn't mean you should give up, you should always keep innovating”, **Minister**



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Local News

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Matthew shared with the students.

Drawing on an example from his personal experience, he encouraged the young engineers to see each unsuccessful attempt not as a setback, but as part of the process of developing a stronger solution. He reminded them that the ability to identify a problem, rethink an approach and keep improving is an invaluable skill that extends far beyond robotics, but can even help them to excel academically.

That process is being captured in the team's engineering notebook, where the students takes turns each day to document the development of their robot, including challeng-

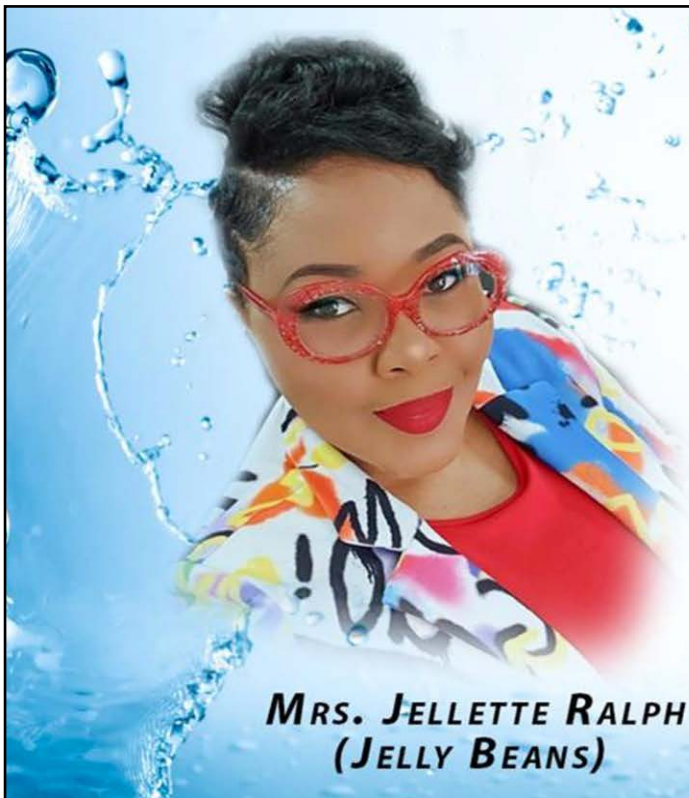
es encountered, and modifications attempted as the design evolves.

Beyond the robot, Minister Matthew spent time learning more about each of the students, speaking with them about what sparked their interest in STEM and where they hope those interest may take them. He congratulated the students on their progress and encouraged them to continue pursuing the things that inspire them. Minister Matthew also encouraged the students to embrace the wider experience that comes with representing Antigua and Barbuda internationally – meeting young people from different cultures, exchanging ideas and making potentially lifelong friendships that

could help broaden their perspectives.

Team Antigua and Barbuda is now entering the final stages of refining its robot ahead of travel to the Olympic-styled competition themed ***"Igniting Innovation"*** that will bring together students teams from 190+ countries to apply STEM principles, while promoting collaboration and cross-cultural exchange.

For the five young women preparing to carry the national flag it's an opportunity to demonstrate what Antigua and Barbuda's next generation of innovators can achieve on the global stage.





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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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Chaneil Imhoff Represents GOHETD in Barbados

Communications specialist and mental health advocate Chaneil C. Imhoff participated as an Ambassador for the Global Organization for Heritage, Environment and Tourism Development (GOHETD), representing the organisation at the Third CARICOM Regional Conference on Reparations.

The conference ran from 17 to 19 September 2026 at the Wyndham Grand Barbados Sam Lord's Castle Resort under the theme "Reparatory Justice as the Coming Enlightenment." Organised by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the CARICOM Reparations Commission, it was hosted by the Government of Barbados and the Barbados Reparations Task Force.

Imhoff's participation formed part of GOHETD's regional outreach, with a focus on identifying opportunities for cooperation in heritage preservation, responsible tourism, environmental development and youth participation.

The 18 September opening dialogue on the global reparatory justice movement listed CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett as moderator, with Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Dr. Jane Mufamadi, Ambassador David Comissiong, Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP and Francis Márquez among the contributors.

Reflecting on the opening, Imhoff identified development that transforms people's circumstances as a central message, alongside the need to convert moral support for reparations into coordinated action. Her takeaways included stronger cooperation among the Caribbean, Africa and the diaspora, recognition of Rastafari's longstanding advocacy, and the connection between reparatory justice and climate justice.

Practical proposals captured in her session notes included national technical teams of historians and economists to document specific harms and develop clear demands, and a global



petition to mobilise public support. She also highlighted the responsibilities of governments and institutions, including churches, to support meaningful repair, alongside the Caribbean's own work towards self-repair.

"Reparatory justice must translate into changes that people can see and experience in their lives," Imhoff said. "That includes access to education, the protection of our heritage and a meaningful role for communities in deciding what development should look like. These priorities connect directly with the work I am undertaking through GOHETD."

For Imhoff, these themes reinforce the importance of recognising Indigenous peoples' distinct histories and priorities, and ensuring that Rastafari and other communities help shape heritage and development initiatives.

"The people who have preserved our culture and sustained the demand for justice must help shape what comes next," she added. "Our responsibility is to ensure that heritage and development initiatives respect their knowledge, strengthen their participation and create opportunities within their communities."

The Barbados gathering follows regional conferences in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2013 and Antigua and Barbuda in 2014. Through this assignment, Imhoff will identify potential partnerships and recommendations to inform GOHETD's future Caribbean engagement.

Imhoff is the founder of the Wadalli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH). Her work spans communications, media production, mental health advocacy and community initiatives in Antigua and Barbuda.

Halo Foundation Donates Scholarship Funds to Support UWI Education for Local Student

The Halo Foundation has recently made a special donation to Kamalie Mannix in support of his continued studies at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Global Campus, where he is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Management Studies.

Mannix is not only a student, but also a long-time contributor to the community. As a former educator, he has been a volunteer with the Halo Foundation for several years, generously offering his time, knowledge, and expertise whenever called upon. He is also Past President of the National Youth Parliament. His dedication to community service and youth development has earned him a respected place within the Halo Foundation family. Kamalie is a history enthusiast, and is currently engrossed in research with regard to the life and times of local historical figures.

"This scholarship donation is a reflection of our belief in the power of education to transform lives," said the Halo Foundation's spokesperson. "We are proud to invest in deserving young people like Kamalie, who demonstrate commitment, discipline, and a genuine desire to grow and give back."

The Foundation's support underscores its ongoing mission to improve upon the education and personal development of Antigua and Barbuda's youth—helping to empower future leaders and contribute to the nation's long-term growth and advancement.

The Halo Foundation extends its heart-



felt best wishes to Kamalie Mannix as he continues his academic journey and wishes him success in his future endeavours.



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The Girl Guides Association of Antigua and Barbuda Celebrates 95 Years of Service



The Girl Guides Association of Antigua and Barbuda celebrated its 95th Anniversary of Guiding, marking nine and a half decades of service, commitment, sisterhood, friendship, leadership, and dedication to the development of girls across Antigua and Barbuda.

The anniversary service was held at Ebenezer Methodist Church, the home of the 1st Antigua Girl Guides Unit. The service was conducted by Reverend Dr. Cuthbert Edwards, Superintendent of the Methodist Church, and led by Miss Kerisha Sweney, recipient of the Girl Guides Association's Guiding Light Award.

The history of Guiding in Antigua and Barbuda started from 1931 to 2026, the service reflected on the important role that Girl Guiding has played in the lives of generations of

girls throughout Antigua and Barbuda. For 95 years, the Association has provided girls with opportunities to devel-

op confidence, leadership, responsibility, teamwork, and practical life skills and badge work.



The occasion also provided an opportunity to honour the women who have contributed significantly to the growth and success of the Association. Special mention was made of past Commissioners, including the late Marjorie Swift, Carolyn McCoy, Carmen Benjamin, and Susan Sharp, as well as the present Commissioner, Suzette Spencer-Burton, who continues to lead the Association as it looks towards the future.

The Association continues to recognize that our Guides are not simply the future—they are an important part of the present. They have voices, ideas, talents, and dreams that deserve to be heard.

In his message, Reverend Dr. Edwards encouraged the Association to remember its roots and remain committed to its future, emphasizing the importance of serving voluntarily and willingly. Do not be a book keeper of your work but give of your best



without expecting a reward. Many have worked within the Association throughout the 95 years and are not marked in history but would have given their best and would have worked earnestly in the service of others.

The anniversary service brought together members from every section of the Association, including Tweenies,

Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders, and Leaders, demonstrating the strength and continuity of the Guiding movement in Antigua and Barbuda.

Following the service, members took part in a short parade led by the Boys' Brigade Band, adding a celebratory conclusion to the morning's activities.


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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 45TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY
22
OCTOBER

National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 8:30 AM

SUNDAY
25
OCTOBER

National Food Fair

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 10:00 AM

Independence Church Service

Church TBC 4:00 PM

National Schools' Panorama

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 6:00 PM

MONDAY
26
OCTOBER

National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway 10:00 AM

National Honours Award and Reception

Governor General Gardens 6:00 PM

National Independence Business Decor Competition

Starts: October 26 Ends: October 29

TUESDAY
27
OCTOBER

Voices in Harmony - Festival of Choirs

St. Anthony's Secondary School 8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY
28
OCTOBER

Schools' Independence Programs

Schools Across the State

Island Treasures Gala - Golden Age

Casa Palmadita

THURSDAY
29
OCTOBER

Barbuda Day Activities

Evening of Theatre

St. Anthony's Secondary School 7:00 PM

FRIDAY
30
OCTOBER

Independence Calypso Competition

Green Lounge – Cedar Valley 8:00 PM

National Dress and Flag Day

SUNDAY
1
NOVEMBER

Independence Flag Ceremony

Barbuda 7:00 AM

Independence Ceremonial Parade

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 5:45 PM



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

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SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MEET THE FLOW FANS OF THE MATCH

Celebrating the fans who brought the energy to CPL in Antigua



The action on the field was only part of the story during the **2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL)**. At the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Flow Antigua & Barbuda turned the spotlight on the supporters who brought the colour, noise and unmistakable Caribbean cricket energy to every match.

Through its **Fan of the Match** promotion, Flow recognized one standout supporter at each CPL match hosted in Antigua. The promotion celebrated fans who showed up for their teams and made their presence felt in the stands

2026 FLOW FANS OF THE MATCH



WESLEY SIMON

From the first ball to the last, it was pure vibes. I'm so proud to be a fan and grateful to Flow for recognizing the passion we bring.



ROSAN CHAND

Seeing my team win was everything. The crowd was loud, the vibes were amazing, and it made the whole experience unforgettable.



AMAR SINGH

From cheering on my team to winning Flow's Fan of the Match - that's what we do as Falcons supporters!



DONELDA T. PRINCE-BONTIFF

The atmosphere was amazing! It's great to see Flow recognizing the fans who bring the energy to every game.

ONE SUMMER. ONE BIG WINNER.

The celebrations extended beyond the stadium. As part of its wider **We Live For This** summer campaign, Flow rewarded customers with prizes and experiences throughout the CPL season, leading up to the ultimate prize: an all-expenses-paid trip for two to the Republic Bank CPL Finals in Barbados.



**GRAND PRIZE WINNER
ROSE JOSEPH**

I've never won anything before, yes I am excited! I was watching the game last night.



“CPL is about so much more than what happens on the field. It's the fans, the communities and the shared excitement that make cricket such an important part of Caribbean culture. We were proud to celebrate that spirit throughout the season and reward some of the customers and supporters who brought it to life. Congratulations to all our winners, and we wish our Grand Prize winner an unforgettable experience at the CPL Finals in Barbados.”

Wayne Hull
Country Manager of Flow Antigua & Barbuda

We live for this

FLOW

Commentary

COVID-19

Pandemic Reckoning: What the World Still Deserves to Know, and What Still Haunts the Living

By Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

Six years after COVID-19 brought much of humanity to a standstill, the world has largely resumed its rhythm. Borders are busy, stadiums are full, aircraft crowd the skies, and masks have mostly disappeared.

But normality is not resolution.

The unfinished business of the pandemic is not only scientific; it is also moral, institutional, and deeply human.

More than 779 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and over seven million deaths have been reported to the World Health Organization, which acknowledges that the true numbers are higher. Against a global population of approximately 8.3 billion people, few societies escaped the pandemic's reach.

Millions survived but did not fully recover. WHO estimates that about 6% of people with symptomatic COVID-19 develop Long COVID, with some experiencing respiratory, neurological, cardiovascular, and other problems for months or years.

For them, the pandemic is not history. It still haunts the living.

I understand something of its psychological reach personally. The pandemic made my circle of friends smaller and taught me to become apprehensive of even a friendly handshake—an instinct that remains with me today. After workplace exposure, I was immediately quarantined until testing confirmed that I was free of infection.

The uncertainty, fear of becoming ill, concern about possibly exposing others, and suspicion of ordinary human contact reflected what millions experienced worldwide. COVID-19 changed more than health systems; for a time, it changed the meaning of proximity itself. A handshake, an embrace, or a conversation at close quarters became



a potential source of danger.

SARS-CoV-2 continues to circulate and evolve. WHO is monitoring variants including XFG, NB.1.8.1, PQ.16.1.1, and BA.3.2. The emergency ended; the virus did not.

Neither did the questions surrounding its origin.

The guilty plea of Dr. David Morens, a former senior adviser at the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has reopened difficult questions about institutional credibility. Morens admitted involvement in efforts to evade federal public-record requirements relating to coronavirus research and official communications, including matters connected with a bat-coronavirus research grant involving the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

These facts do not prove that SARS-CoV-2 escaped from a laboratory, nor do they establish criminal wrongdoing by Dr. Anthony Fauci.

They do, however, establish that relevant official communications were deliberately concealed from normal transparency mechanisms.

That warrants a simple question: Why?

WHO's scientific assessment says the weight of available evidence favours zoonotic spillover. Yet important in-

formation remains unavailable, including early viral sequences, details concerning animals sold in Wuhan markets, and information about laboratory work and biosafety conditions.

The responsible position is therefore neither to proclaim a laboratory origin proven nor dismiss it as impossible.

Science should follow evidence, not defend predetermined conclusions.

The same standard of evidence and transparency that should govern the origin debate must also govern how we assess the benefits and harms of vaccination.

I chose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and a booster because I trusted the recommendations of WHO and the international public-health community.

There is strong evidence that vaccination reduced severe illness, hospitalization, and death. But acknowledging those benefits does not require denying genuine risks.

Regulators across Europe, Africa, India, and Russia broadly reached the same conclusion: vaccines provided important protection, but continuing safety monitoring was necessary. European regulators recognized rare myocarditis and pericarditis after some mRNA vaccines. African authorities monitored rare clotting disorders. India recognized thrombosis with thrombocytopenia associated with adenovirus-vector vaccines while continuing surveillance of other reported conditions. Russia issued formal contraindications and clinical guidance.

Across very different regulatory systems, the common lesson was not that vaccination was risk-free, but that benefit and risk had to be assessed together and continually.

COVID-19 vaccines provided important protection, but risk was not zero.

Commentary

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It should therefore be possible to say that vaccines saved lives without pretending that no one was harmed by them. It should also be possible to recognize genuine vaccine injuries without claiming that every illness or unexplained death following vaccination was caused by it.

Those positions are not contradictory. They are the minimum requirements of intellectual honesty.

In the United States, 11,055 claims alleging COVID-19 vaccine injury or death had been filed through the federal compensation programme by July 2026. A claim is not proof of causation, and many did not meet evidentiary requirements. Nevertheless, some vaccine-related injuries have been officially recognized.

Where injury is scientifically established, those affected should not disappear behind statistics.

Treat what can be treated. Rehabilitate where possible. Compensate fairly where responsibility is established.

Human dignity should never be measured by prevalence.

The same intellectual discipline applies to cardiovascular disease. WHO identifies cardiovascular disease as the world's leading cause of death, a reality that long predates COVID-19. It cannot credibly be presented as proof of widespread vaccine injury.

Yet legitimate questions remain. COVID-19 itself can affect the car-

diovascular system. Long COVID may contribute to illness. Traditional risk factors and disrupted healthcare remain important. Rare vaccine-associated cardiovascular complications have also been documented.

The question therefore is not whether vaccines caused post-pandemic cardiovascular disease, but how much illness resulted from COVID infection, existing disease, interrupted healthcare, or recognized vaccine complications.

There is no credible global figure that answers that fully. The absence of an answer should encourage research, not speculation.

History also warns us that another pandemic will come. Major respiratory pandemics struck in 1889–90, 1918, 1957, 1968, 2009, and 2019. Their timing was irregular, so no responsible formula can predict the next one. But another pandemic within the lifetime of much of today's population is entirely plausible.

The true reckoning, therefore, is not about vindicating one government, scientist, institution, or vaccine.

It is about whether humanity learns enough to protect everyone better next time—the majority who benefit from effective medical interventions, the minority who may suffer genuine harm, the vulnerable, and generations yet unborn.

Progress that protects millions while

abandoning the few who are genuinely harmed is incomplete. Equally, concern for the injured cannot justify denying interventions that saved lives on a vast scale.

The higher obligation is to pursue both: protection and accountability, scientific advancement and human dignity, institutional strength and transparency.

I trusted the international public-health system enough to receive a vaccine and booster.

That trust should never require silence.

Science earns authority through evidence. Institutions earn legitimacy through transparency. Leadership earns confidence through accountability.

The dead cannot demand answers.

The living can.

And before another pandemic tests humanity, we should establish what was right, acknowledge what was wrong, repair what can still be repaired, and build systems capable of protecting both the many and the few.

The next response must be not merely faster, but wiser, fairer, more transparent, and directed toward the greatest good of all.

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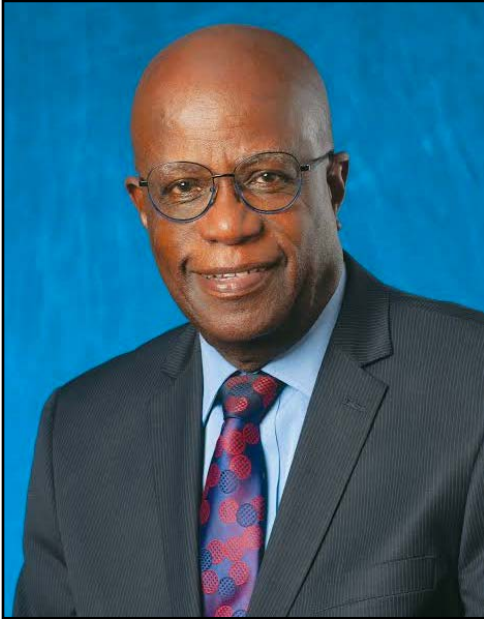
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Breaking the US Dollar Habit: Why the Caribbean Must Finally Settle Its Own Bills



By Julian Rogers

Here we go again, and this time, we have no excuse to get it wrong. Word coming out of Port of Spain is that CARICOM central bank governors and finance officials, meeting at the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, are putting finishing touches on a pilot project for a regional payment system. Working alongside experts who built the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System, our leaders are attempting something that sounds remarkably straightforward to the woman selling produce in the market and the small manufacturer in an industrial park: allow Caribbean people and Caribbean businesses to trade with each other using our own money, without having to bow before the altar of the United States dollar.

It sounds like fresh thinking, but for anyone who has lived through the modern history of regional integration, it sparks an immediate wave of *deja vu*. It also brings back a heavy dose of frustration, because we have been down this road before, walked away from it, and paid a terrible price for our retreat.

Cast your mind back four decades.

There was a time when traveling through this archipelago did not require an embarrassing trip to a commercial bank to beg for US currency that neither our government nor our central bank had the power to print. We had CARICOM travellers cheques. They were printed, circulated, and honoured right across our waters, backed solidly by the currency that served as the regional economic heavyweight at the time, the Trinidad and Tobago dollar.

Behind those blue-tinted cheques stood a serious, homegrown institution known as the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility, or the CMCF. The idea was pure Caribbean common sense. If a distributor in Barbados bought canned goods from Jamaica, or if Trinidad supplied steel and petroleum products to the Windward Islands, the banks did not need to run to Miami or New York with a bag of American cash to settle every individual invoice. Instead, central banks tallied up what was owed across borders, balanced the trade ledgers against each other on paper, and only settled the remaining net difference periodically. It kept money circulating within our borders, cut conversion losses, and, above all, shielded our fragile reserves of hard foreign currency.

It worked, and it worked well, until the discipline snapped. Human nature, especially when mixed with bad regional politics, intervened. A facility built to smooth out payments quietly turned into an overdraft window for governments that were running out of cash. One country in particular, which will remain nameless here, though certainly far from blameless, ran up enormous debts on the system.

When the time came to settle accounts, the pockets were empty. Credit ceilings were ignored, the balances ballooned, the money ran dry, and by the early 1980s, the entire clearing facility ground to a sudden, acrimonious

halt.

What did our regional leadership do next? Did they sit down, restructure the debt, build tighter financial guardrails, and say, “We will fix our mistakes, hold defaulters accountable, and make this institution stronger”? No. Instead of fixing the engine, we threw away the entire motorcar.

We abandoned the clearing facility, quietly phased out the travellers cheques, and retreated headlong into a dependent, colonial posture. We packed away our tools of monetary self-reliance and walked straight into the arms of the correspondent banking network in North America.

Think carefully about the sheer absurdity of the reality we settled for over the past forty years. If a trader in Bridgetown wants to purchase ginger or garments from a supplier in Castries, Georgetown, or Kingston, that payment almost inevitably routes through a clearing bank in New York or Miami. That means paying fees at both ends, waiting days for funds to clear, suffering the indignity of exchange-rate spreads, and hunting down scarce US dollars to buy things produced right on our doorstep.

Every year, millions upon millions of hard-earned dollars drain out of the regional economy simply to pay foreign middlemen for the privilege of trading with our own cousins an hour away by air. We proudly unfurl our national flags, we sing our national anthems, and we deliver stirring speeches at regional summits about our sovereignty and self-determination. Yet, when it comes to buying a crate of oranges or a shipment of cement, we cannot close the deal without asking Uncle Sam to clear our cheques.

That is why this new push by our central banks matters so deeply, and why the stakes are higher than ever.

Feature

In today's world, the cost of not having our own financial plumbing is completely unsustainable. American banks have spent the past decade severing correspondent ties with Caribbean institutions because our markets are too small to justify their regulatory headaches. Meanwhile, small businesses and everyday citizens across our territories find it increasingly difficult to access hard currency simply to conduct ordinary commerce. If the current global environment has taught us anything, it is that supply chains are fracturing, global trade rules are turning inwards, and nobody is coming across the Atlantic or down from North America to solve our basic economic survival problems for us.

This pilot cannot simply be a polite academic exercise or an experimental software test. It has to work in the real world, and for it to work, our leaders must possess the courage to enforce its rules without fear or favour. The new payment architecture must have iron-clad settlement terms, hard limits on credit lines, and absolute transparency. It must remain a settlement facility, never another soft lending scheme for countries that refuse to get their fiscal houses in order.

I remain an unrepentant, unapologetic Caribbean man. Because of that optimism, I have very little choice but to support this initiative with everything I have.

We simply cannot afford another forty years of sitting on the sidelines, waiting for foreign clearinghouses to dictate the pace of our regional commerce.

We have spent four decades discovering just how expensive our disunity really is. Now the bill has come due, and we must finally learn to settle it among ourselves. Either we step up, run this new system with unbending integrity, and pull together as one economic family, or, as the Trinis would say, it will just end in pure *ole mas*.

PS: Do you think Guyana has enough money to clear their debt, now?

*Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers, caribbeanbridges.com.
whose parents are Guyanese. [julian@](mailto:julian@caribbeanbridges.com)*



25 Years After 9/11: The Professionals Who Stand Between the Threat and the Traveller

Part II



By Kurt Menal, CEO of the VC Bird International Airport
Antigua and Barbuda's national aviation security framework

In Antigua and Barbuda, international requirements are translated into the national regulatory and operational environment through the country's aviation security legislation, regulations and national programmes.

The Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA), which has responsibility for civil aviation safety and security oversight within its participating States, identifies aviation security as a dedicated area of regulatory responsibility focused on safeguarding travellers, crew and cargo through rigorous quality control, effective security measures and continual oversight.

Antigua and Barbuda's Civil Aviation (Security) Regulations, 2021 form part of this national regulatory framework.

Within this framework, programmes such as the **National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP)**, **National Screener Certification Programme**, **National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme** and **National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme** provide the structure within which aviation security personnel perform their duties.

These programmes are not simply ad-

ministrative documents. They collectively help answer four fundamental questions:

- **What security measures must be implemented?**
- **Who is qualified to implement them?**
- **How must they be trained and assessed?**
- **How do we know that the system continues to work effectively?**

That is the system within which our Aviation Security Officers operate.

The National Civil Aviation Security Programme: The framework

The National Civil Aviation Security Programme establishes the national framework for protecting civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference. For the Aviation Security Officer, this framework ultimately becomes operational instruction. It informs the procedures governing passenger screening, baggage screening, access control, restricted areas, security of aircraft and other protective measures.

The officer does not have to, and should not, make up security procedures independently. The officer works within an established system designed around national requirements and international standards. This is one of the reasons aviation security is such a specialized field. An officer must understand not only *what* to do, but *why* a particular procedure exists and why consistency matters.

The National Screener Certification Programme: demonstrating competence

Passenger and baggage screening are among the most visible functions of aviation security. They are also among the functions where professional competence is absolutely critical.

Aviation security screening is a technical task. It requires training, practical competency, assessment and certification.

ICAO specifically requires States to ensure that persons carrying out screening operations are certified according to the requirements of the national civil aviation security programme. This means that the person operating a screening checkpoint is not simply learning by observation or being placed at a machine after basic orientation.

There is a defined competency requirement. The National Screener Certification Programme therefore forms an important part of the professional pathway for those performing screening functions. It reinforces the principle that aviation security screening should be performed by people who have demonstrated that they can consistently achieve the required standard.

Training is continuous—not a one-time event

Another misconception about aviation security is that once an officer has completed initial training, the learning process is finished. In reality, aviation security is constantly evolving.

Threats change. Technology changes. Screening equipment changes. Passenger behaviour changes. Procedures change. International requirements change. Consequently, the aviation security professional must continue to learn.

The National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme provides an important foundation for building and maintaining the competencies required of aviation security personnel.

This philosophy is consistent with ICAO's broader approach. ICAO's aviation security framework emphasizes training, competency, certification and continuing quality control as essential components of an effective security system.

Training therefore should not be viewed as a cost associated with Aviation Security Officers.

It is an **investment in national security**.

ty, aviation security and public confidence.

Quality control: making sure the system works

Aviation security is also unique because it cannot simply depend upon people following procedures. The system must continually test whether those procedures are being followed and whether they remain effective. That is the purpose of the National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme.

ICAO requires States to establish a national aviation security quality control programme to determine compliance with, and validate the effectiveness of, the National Civil Aviation Security Programme. This includes mechanisms such as audits, inspections, tests and other forms of monitoring.

Quality control creates accountability. It asks whether procedures are being followed. It asks whether personnel are properly trained. It asks whether deficiencies are being corrected. And importantly, it asks whether the security system is actually achieving its intended purpose. This creates a cycle of **training, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and improvement**.

Our Aviation Security Officers are an essential part of that cycle.

The human element remains indispensable

Modern airports increasingly use advanced technology. We have sophisticated screening equipment, access-control systems, surveillance cameras, biometric technologies and other security tools.

But technology does not replace professional judgement. A machine may identify an anomaly. A person must interpret it. A system may generate an alert. A trained professional must determine the appropriate response. A passenger may become frustrated by a security procedure.

A professional Aviation Security Officer must maintain the security requirement while treating that passenger with dignity and respect. That combination of security awareness and customer service is particularly important in a tourism-dependent country such as Antigua

and Barbuda.

Our airports are often the first and last point of contact for visitors to our country.

The Aviation Security Officer therefore has two responsibilities that must coexist: **protect the travelling public and preserve the dignity of the travelling public.**

Those responsibilities are not contradictory. They are complementary.

The quiet professionals of our airports

Perhaps the greatest compliment that can be paid to an Aviation Security Officer is that nothing happened. No prohibited item entered a restricted area. No unauthorized person gained access. No security vulnerability was exploited. No threat progressed beyond the point at which it could be identified and managed. Passengers boarded their aircraft and continued their journeys safely. The absence of an incident can make security work invisible. But invisible does not mean unimportant. Quite the opposite. It means the system worked.

And behind that system are men and women who report for duty every day, often working long shifts, weekends, holidays and during peak travel periods, knowing that their attention to detail can have consequences far beyond the checkpoint where they are standing.

A profession deserving of respect

As we mark 25 years since 9/11, it is appropriate that we recognize the Aviation Security Officers of the Antigua and Barbuda Airports Authority for what they truly are:

aviation security professionals.

Their uniforms may be familiar to the travelling public, but the expertise behind those uniforms is not always understood. They operate within an international aviation security architecture. They are governed by national legislation and regulations. They are trained through structured national programmes. They are subject to certification requirements and their performance is subject to quality control. Their responsibilities are continuously evolving in response to new threats and new technologies.

That is a highly specialized profession. It requires discipline, integrity, vigilance, emotional intelligence, technical competence and sound judgement. Most importantly, it requires an understanding that aviation security is not about creating inconvenience for travellers. It is about creating confidence.

Twenty-five years later

The world of aviation today is fundamentally different from the world that existed before 11 September 2001. The security environment has changed. The regulatory environment has changed. The technology has changed. The threats have changed.

But one principle remains constant: **aviation security ultimately depends upon people who are prepared, competent and committed to doing their jobs well.** For Antigua and Barbuda, those people include the Aviation Security Officers of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority.

As thousands of passengers pass through the V.C. Bird International Airport and our other aviation facilities, these officers stand as an important part of the national aviation security system.

- They are protecting passengers who may never know their names.
- They are protecting crews.
- They are protecting aircraft.
- They are protecting airport employees.
- They are protecting critical national infrastructure.
- And they are helping protect Antigua and Barbuda's reputation as a safe, secure and welcoming destination.

Twenty-five years after 9/11, we should remember the lives lost and the lessons learned.

But we should also recognize the professionals who, every day, turn those lessons into action.

Our Aviation Security Officers are not simply checking passengers. They are safeguarding aviation, protecting people and helping to secure the future of travel.

For that, they deserve our respect, our recognition and our appreciation.



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WE'RE HIRING: MARKETING MANAGER

Boutique Hospitality | Marketing

Our client, who operates a small-scale boutique hospitality property, is seeking to hire a commercially minded Marketing Manager to strengthen the property's market presence, increase room occupancy and direct bookings, promote events and catering services, and drive measurable revenue growth.

THE ROLE

This is a hands-on role combining strategy and execution. The successful candidate will take ownership of marketing initiatives from concept through implementation and measurement, working closely with management to grow the property's accommodation, events and catering business.

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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Regional News

UN pleads for urgent aid as Haiti children face malnutrition crisis



that the nutrition situation for children in Haiti continues to deteriorate and is urging the global community to provide funding for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country to deal with the situation.

“The nutrition sector under the Haiti Humanitarian Response Plan requires US\$41 million but is less than 20 per cent funded, with just US\$7.5 million received. We need more money, and we need it very, very soon,” said Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesman for the UN Secretary-General at the daily press briefing.

He told reporters that colleagues at UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) say more than a quarter of a million children between the ages of six to 59 months old are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition between June of this year and May of next year.

94,000 children facing severe acute malnutrition, which can become life-threatening without timely treatment.

“As we’ve told you several times from this podium, continued violence forces families to flee their homes, and disrupts children’s access to food, healthcare and nutrition treatment. Some 1.5 million people are internally displaced, half of them children, while

ing food insecurity,” Dujarric said.

“Our humanitarian colleagues warn that the situation might become critical between December of this year and May of next year, when 29 out of 140 municipalities are projected to reach IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 3, while the neighborhoods of Cité Soleil and Cabaret are expected to reach Phase 4.” (CMC)

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Pregnant in State care: Aunt fights for answers as niece impregnated



Before her sister died she expressed one wish for her daughter — that she would not become a teen mother. Her loving sibling says she tried desperately to honour that wish, eventually placing her niece in State care when she became increasingly difficult to manage at home, only to later learn that the 16-year-old had become pregnant while at Maxfield Park Children's Home.

Heartbroken, she now feels as though she has failed both her sister and her niece. However, she said her pain has been compounded by her anger over not being provided with timely updates on matters related to her now-pregnant niece.

According to her, she was told that the teen had “consensual sex” with another ward of the State while residing at the Corporate Area children's home. However, the teen was already about six weeks pregnant when her aunt was told of the pregnancy in July.

The aunt told the Jamaica Observer that a few days before she was formally notified by a representative, her niece had sent her a message saying that she had something to tell her, but never revealed what that was. She suspects that the teen may have intended to tell her that she was pregnant,

which has led her to question whether staff at the facility were aware of the pregnancy but failed to immediately inform her.

Shortly after learning about her niece's pregnancy, the aunt said she went to the children's home hoping to see the 16-year-old, only to be told that the teenager had been transferred to another facility. While she admitted to previously being informed that a transfer was pending since Maxfield Park was not equipped for pregnant teens, she said she was not told when it would be actioned or the new location to which the teen would be moved.

On a separate occasion, she learned that her niece had been arrested for allegedly assaulting an individual at a children's home in Montego Bay, St James. However, this news did not come from the teenager's caseworker, but from the police who called to make contact with the family.

In fact, the aunt said much of what she knows about her niece's whereabouts and well-being has come through the grapevine from friends and contacts within various agencies, who have tried to help her piece together what has been happening with

the child in State care.

The aunt said the experience has been both heartbreaking and infuriating. She described the lack of communication from the teen's caseworker and various children's homes as unacceptable.

“I am so angry. I don't even know how to explain this feeling, but I am hurt about it. I am torn up about it,” she told the Sunday Observer.

She said that following her sister's death in 2023 she became the guardian of all four of her children. She said her niece was very problematic and bounced around from one family member to the next. She said the teenager was eventually placed in State care in Falmouth, Trelawny, but when the facility was damaged during the passage of Hurricane Melissa, she returned home.

However, her behaviour did not improve. She said her niece continued to rebel, eventually engaging in self-harm.

The family then decided to put her back in State care, where her aunt said she believed the teen would be surrounded by qualified professionals who would ensure her care and safety. Instead, the teenager got pregnant and was allegedly subjected to abuse.

The teen's uncle said he was informed by the pregnant teen that she was locked outside of a home at which she was residing in Montego Bay, with no food, water, or shelter. He alleged that his niece also faced verbal abuse and neglect at the child-care facility.

“It's wrong,” he said, repeating the phrase three times for emphasis.

“It's an abuse of power. It's abusing the child; it's abusing the family. We want legal action taken against the various institutions that are responsible, and for there to be some [resti-

Regional News



tution] for her, because she does not have the capacity to take care of a child. The State has not done its duty so, therefore, the State has to take responsibility for that," he insisted.

A returning resident, the uncle said it is depressing to see what Jamaica has become.

"We don't understand the trauma that a person who lives abroad has to go through. To come back to Jamaica and see the same stupidity going on between our own people when we should know better that it is wrong. We should know better," he said, demanding accountability.

Meanwhile, the aunt is heartbroken that she did not get to keep the promise she made to her sister.

"Me feel like me fail. When I told them to take her back, that was the main reason why I gave her back because I never wanted her to be a teen mom. I wanted her to have an education and get something out of life. Being a mother at this age wasn't for her. Mi never want that. Mi feel like me fail my sister. Every day me feel like me a fail. I keep saying, 'Where am I going wrong?'," said the distraught aunt.

"There are nights when I lie down in my bed, and I cry uncontrollably because I can't cry in front of the kids... me have to try and make these kids not see that aunty a break. Mi tired," she said, her voice heavy.

She said the latest information she's received is that her niece is at a correctional facility in Kingston, where she is being held in relation to the alleged assault.

She said she's sent a letter to the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) demanding answers as to why she was not kept in the loop regarding her niece's care but has yet to receive a response.

She hopes the matter shines light on the realities of how children are treated in State care to bring about change.

The aunt is heartbroken that she was

unable to fulfil her late sister's wish for her daughter not to become a teen mom, as her niece is now pregnant.

The aunt is heartbroken that she was unable to fulfil her late sister's wish for her daughter not to become a teen mom, as her niece is now pregnant.

"Them nah watch them, and they are not doing them job. They are negligent," she said.

"I want people to know what is going on in State care. I want them to know that these are the people that we have looking after our kids because we can't look after them. It cannot continue," she told the Sunday Observer.

Executive director and co-founder of Eve for Life Joy Crawford said the situation is extremely difficult to understand.

A non-government organisation that focuses on the sexual and reproductive health, rights and well-being of the Jamaican girl child, the head said the teen has received support from the organisation. According to Crawford, the teen has a history of abuse and self-harm and had been placed in the facility to ensure her safety and care.

"For her to go into State care for care and protection and nurturing and then for her, within eight months, to have had a report that she is currently pregnant while being a ward of the State, it is difficult to understand the sequence of events and the things that the State had in place to ensure her safety and protection.

"What is as problematic is that, based on the interaction and the support that we have been lending to her aunt, who is her current legal guardian, is the missing alarm, the missing accountability, the missing engagement from the State actors and their responsibility to the family and to this young girl. They need to actually answer key questions and say what is going to be in place for this young woman and her child that is coming, as well as what is the restitution for

her being harmed, abused, neglected, and becoming pregnant while in State care," said Crawford.

The ward of the State was already six weeks pregnant when her family was notified about her pregnancy while in the care of the Child Protection and Family Services Agency.

She insisted that there are some serious questions to be answered.

"I am aware that the aunt had sent a letter to the CPFSA for which, to my knowledge, she has still not yet gotten a response. That, for me, now is tantamount to being the worst part of this story, because we have a duty, as Jamaica, to answer this family about what has happened to their relative while in State care," she told the Sunday Observer.

The director said the non-government institution is concerned about how privately run homes care for wards of the State and the interventions that are taken when they are harmed.

"While we understand that Eve for Life is not a legal guardian, or we don't have legal jurisdiction over the families that we work with and the children... we are legitimate child protection partners in Jamaica, playing a role for a group of young people who are vulnerable. We are the sole representative of them in the education system, in the childcare protection system, and in their communities, and I think from that perspective we have a duty to be very invested in what happens to them," said Crawford.

She advocated for swift intervention, adding that the family deserves answers.

"The family should be in the know and should be brought to the table. There should be some State acknowledgement that there has been grievous harm done to this young woman while under the watch of the Government," she stressed. (Jamaica Observer)

El Niño raises growing health risks across the Americas

El Niño continues to strengthen and could have significant public health impacts across the Americas in the coming months, according to the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) first regional Situation Report on the phenomenon.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates there is more than a 90% probability that El Niño will reach "very strong" intensity between late 2026 and early 2027.

PAHO reports that impacts are already being seen in different parts of the region. Several countries are experiencing drought, food insecurity, wildfires, and flooding amid the strengthening El Niño, although not all of these events have been directly attributed to the phenomenon. To date, eight countries or territories have issued official emergency declarations or alerts related to El Niño-associated threats.

"El Niño is not just a climate phenomenon. It can affect people's health in many ways, from food insecurity and vector- and water-borne diseases to disruptions in health services," said Dr. Ciro Ugarte, Director of PAHO's Department of Health Emergencies. "With a greater than 90% likelihood of a very strong event, this is a risk, which countries should take seriously and prepare for now."

The report highlights that more than 5.2 million people across the region are affected, exposed, or facing acute food insecurity, while several countries are already reporting health impacts linked to extreme weather events. Based on available information, PAHO's monitoring identified eight countries or territories experiencing active drought or water shortages, six facing wildfires with health impacts or risks, and five reporting damage from heavy rainfall or flooding.

In Central America, one of the primary concerns is the Dry Corridor, particularly in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, where drought is affecting water availability, agricultural produc-



tion, and food security. In Guatemala, nearly three million people face critical levels of food insecurity, while Honduras reports between 1.8 and 2.2 million people affected by acute food insecurity.

In the Andean region, Colombia faces a complex situation marked by wildfires, heavy rainfall, and an active dengue outbreak, along with risks linked to malaria and yellow fever. Peru is experiencing one of the most severe situations in the region, with heavy rains, flooding, and landslides causing at least 70 deaths between December 2025 and August 2026 and affecting more than 600 health facilities.

Brazil currently presents some of the most significant environmental warning signs, including declining water levels across the Amazon Basin and worsening air quality linked to wildfires. According to data cited by PAHO, 630 municipalities have recorded fine particulate matter levels above World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations. As of the reporting period, no direct correlation with specific health outcomes had been established.

In the Caribbean, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad and Tobago are reporting drought conditions and risks associated with water scarcity, while countries in the Southern Cone are maintaining preparedness measures in anticipation of increased rainfall, flooding, and other extreme events in the months ahead.

The report identifies a range of health

risks, including the direct effects of extreme heat, vector- and water-borne diseases, deteriorating air quality, and disruptions to essential health services. It also warns that health facilities remain vulnerable to infrastructure damage, interruptions in water and power supplies, impacts on supply chains and vaccination programmes, and reduced access to health care.

During previous El Niño episodes, the region also faced major public health emergencies, including the re-emergence of cholera in the 1990s, the Zika and chikungunya epidemics in 2015-2016, and record dengue transmission in 2023 and 2024.

In response, PAHO is supporting preparedness and response efforts across the region, including initiatives to strengthen the resilience of health services, improve disease surveillance, enhance water security, and support continuity of care for vulnerable communities.

PAHO is urging countries to strengthen surveillance systems and early warning mechanisms, protect the continuity of essential health services, and ensure access to safe water, vaccination, medicines, and health care for the most vulnerable populations. The Organization also calls for the review and updating of hospital and health network contingency plans to reduce the potential health impacts of what could become one of the strongest El Niño events in recent years. (Kaieteur News)

Regional News



Govt. negotiating with Turkish firm for another powership

The Government of Guyana (GoG) has reportedly commenced talks with a Turkish power company for a large vessel to provide additional electricity to the national grid, as concerns grow over the startup of the Gas-to-Energy (GTE) project by year-end, as promised by contractor Lindsayca.

Multiple sources have confirmed that the administration is preparing to bypass national procurement laws to secure a third powership, which would be the largest ever rented by the country.

The nation currently rents two vessels from Karpowership – a 36-megawatt (MW) facility docked in the Berbice River and a 60MW vessel stationed in the Demerara River.

This newspaper was reliably informed that the third powership is likely to provide 300MW of power to the grid using Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO). The vessel is likely to replace the existing two powerships leased to the GoG.

Sources told Kaieteur News that the new powership is likely to be stationed at Wales, West Bank Demerara, where the GTE contractor continues to struggle to meet the fast-approaching December deadline to provide some 57MW to the grid.

In the meantime, demand for electricity continues to grow as development in the country expands.

To meet the projected demand for electricity and prepare for any further delays to the troubled GTE project, the GoG is now forced to turn to rented power generation, which will come at a massive cost to the national purse.

It should be noted that about US\$2 billion has already been invested in the power project at Wales, which is nowhere closer to delivering on the promise of cheaper and more reliable electricity.

Instead of holding those responsible accountable for these agonising delays, the administration is looking to tie the nation to yet another heavily polluting HFO powership at a time when fuel prices are skyrocketing and the country continues to rely on imports to meet the needs of domestic and commercial mar-

kets.

Based on recent Platts spot indexes placing HFO at over US\$500 per metric tonne, the fuel costs alone to cover a 300MW shortfall could run into the tens of millions of US dollars monthly. This decision would directly drain the national coffers and exacerbate the high cost of living that everyday-citizens are currently battling.

Furthermore, transparency advocates and industry observers are questioning why, if emergency generation is so desperately needed, the government is not attempting to lease gas-powered generators or powerships.

Sources said, "Utilising gas-powered units would not only significantly reduce fuel expenses but also alleviate the severe strain on the local banking system that would require additional US dollars to purchase HFOs on the international market."

Currently, businesses and families are forced to wait weeks to exchange their Guyanese dollars due to a tightly squeezed foreign currency market. Continuing to rely on expensive HFO imports only deepens this currency crisis, tying up crucial US dollars that should be circulating in the local economy.

Sources told this publication that the real scandal lies hidden behind the smoke of these powerships. It was explained that the push for more HFO generation is a direct attempt to cover up a frightening reality: Lindsayca's Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) conditioning plant is severely behind schedule.

"It is simply not ready to process the

50 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscfd) of gas expected in 2026 – the very gas that could easily run a much cheaper, cleaner gas-powered ship," a government source indicated.

Notably, the administration's refusal to follow standard procurement procedures for this third powership raises serious red flags. If it chooses to bypass the tender board, government would be doling out hundreds of millions of US dollars without the scrutiny of a national body tasked with ensuring that the state selects the most competitive bidder based not only on price but also experience.

Guyanese deserve to know the exact details of these fuel arrangements and the supplier involved in the HFO contracts.

During a press conference, President Irfaan Ali revealed that there is currently no spinning reserve left on the grid, while a number of generators have exceeded their maintenance schedules or are approaching their maintenance timelines.

Notably, the Head-of-State did not rule out the possibility of a third powership when questioned specifically on the matter.

He said, "Whatever the situation demands now we have to have a holistic approach to this."

Meanwhile, the Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, did not respond to a request for comment on Saturday up to the time of this report. (Kaieteur News)

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Man accused of ties to bin Laden has 20-year Guantanamo detention reviewed

A man initially accused of being a high-profile al-Qaeda figure and who was tortured in CIA custody appeared Thursday at a hearing to review his detention at the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he has been held for 20 years without charges.

A US government official said Abu Zubaydah, who wore a neatly trimmed beard and glasses, had “probably” served as one of Osama bin Laden’s most trusted facilitators. The roughly 20-minute hearing offered rare visibility into the secretive military court proceedings of a suspect who had been tortured at CIA black sites during the US war on terrorism and whose case still has not been resolved 25 years after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Zubaydah’s unidentified government-assigned representative and his private attorney, Annika Conrad, both acknowledged he had known bin Laden, the 9/11 mastermind. But they said Zubaydah was never a member of the militant group that bin Laden founded.

Conrad argued that Zubaydah poses no security threat to the United States and that it can no longer justify his detention. She said Zubaydah should be approved for transfer out of Guantanamo, which would kick off a multiyear process that includes finding a country to accept him.

Conrad said Zubaydah is prepared to accept a range of security measures, including continuous monitoring.

Conrad said he has the financial and personal support of his family, has rejected any extremist views “and simply wants to live a life of peace.”

She also argued that a chief military prosecutor for US Military Commissions, which oversees the 15 men still held at Guantanamo Bay, has said that it is unlikely that Zubaydah will be charged.

The Office of Military Commissions declined to comment.



Zubaydah’s attorney said the most the government can offer is a “probable association” to bin Laden after more than two decades and noted that Zubaydah declined a direct request from bin Laden to work for al-Qaida.

Conrad also cited the torture that Zubaydah experienced, describing him as “a greatly injured man” who lost his left eye and his ability to write in English and “frequently struggles to recall words”.

Zubaydah’s detention is being reviewed by a US government panel of senior defence, intelligence and homeland security officials. The Periodic Review Board was created under the Obama administration to evaluate prisoners and determine if they could be released without posing a threat to national security.

The review panel issued no immediate ruling Thursday. A live video feed of the unclassified portion of his hearing at Guantanamo was made available to reporters at Fort Meade, an Army base in Maryland.

Detainees are not permitted to speak at their review hearings, and Zubaydah sat in silence next to his attorney

and the government representative. Dressed in a gray suit jacket and patterned gray tie, he often pressed his left index finger to his left temple or fidgeted with something in his hands. A worn-looking book sat in front of him.

Zubaydah’s lawyers, Conrad and Ahmed Almudallal, said in a statement before the hearing that he may never face charges.

“For the first time in over two decades, the military’s Chief Prosecutor believes it is unlikely our client will ever be charged,” the attorneys said. “This is a major change in circumstances that warrants he be cleared for transfer.”

Almudallal and Conrad said Zubaydah has “no intent to engage in violence against the United States in the future”.

“Now, at 55 years old, he’s eager to re-connect with his family and live out the rest of his days as a free person,” they said. “Twenty-four years in prison plus being ‘patient zero’ in the US government’s torture programme has been punishment enough.” (AP)

International

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Trump banning CNN, MSNOW and Politico from the White House



President Donald Trump said Friday that he was banning CNN, MSNOW and Politico from the White House due to what he called unfavorable coverage, and threatened that more such media prohibitions could be coming – offering his administration’s latest test of constitutional First Amendment protections guaranteeing the freedom of the press.

Trump has long bristled at news coverage he maintains casts him in a negative light, and has a history of filing lawsuits against news organizations, while lashing out at individual reporters in person or over social media.

The move follows the president’s decision, in February 2025, to keep Associated Press journalists out of the Oval Office, Air Force One and other events too small for a full press corps, in retaliation for the news outlet’s de-

cision not to follow his lead in changing the Gulf of Mexico’s name.

The AP filed suit and the case is ongoing. Since returning to office, however, Trump has pursued other legal action against a variety of different outlets, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and the BBC.

Trump seeking to block White House access for CNN is especially notably, however, as it could upend the traditional five-network television pool that travels with the president and tracks his every move – meant to provide independent coverage of his actions and interactions for the Americans who elected him and the world.

In the social media announcement, Trump did not provide details on how the ban would be implemented.

It came moments before Trump spoke

to reporters in the Oval Office as part of a health care event. He later planned to take the press pool to his golf club in Virginia for a meeting and dinner sponsored by his Super PAC before spending the weekend at Camp David – one of the few places reporters don’t follow him.

The president wrote on his social media site that effective immediately, “I am banning” CNN, MSNOW and Politico “from the White House as a result of their constant ‘reporting’ FAKE NEWS!”

“Media Outlets shouldn’t be able to constantly write or report FICTION and LIES when they’re covering the President of the United States, the Trump Administration, or the United States of America,” Trump wrote. “Other Fake News Media Outlets to follow.” (AP)

Trump to meet acting Venezuelan president in New York



President Donald Trump will meet with Delcy Rodríguez, the acting president of Venezuela, for the first time next week since his administration carried out an operation to capture the nation's former leader and effectively put Rodríguez in charge.

The gathering in New York City between the two leaders will be a “pull-aside” – diplomatic speak for a meeting that is more casual than a formal bilateral sit-down – said Mike Waltz, the US ambassador to the United Nations. Trump will be in town for the annual United Nations General Assembly.

Waltz also said Trump will meet with Andy Burnham, the United Kingdom prime minister, and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. The Trump-Burnham meeting will be their

first since Burnham became prime minister in July.

Trump also will meet with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. The meeting comes as the US has struggled to find an end-game to the Iran war after more than six months.

Rodríguez took over in Venezuela after a surprise US military raid in January that captured then-leader Nicolás Maduro and brought him to the United States to face drug trafficking charges.

The first meeting between Trump and Rodríguez, who had been Maduro's vice president, comes after the two countries announced an agreement last month to give the United States a stake in Venezuela's vast oil reserves. She

described the deal as a step towards economic recovery that will modernise the country's oil industry

Senior administration officials said they couldn't confirm whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would seek a meeting with Trump while in New York for the UN General Assembly, but suggested it was unlikely. The officials, who insisted on anonymity as a ground rule for holding the call, said that Netanyahu's time in New York would be quite limited during the Israeli electoral season, and that the prime minister wasn't expected to arrive there until after Trump leaves.

The officials also downplayed the prospects of the war in Iran dominating the annual gathering of world leaders. (AP)

Officials: Disease outbreak killed at least 33 illegal miners in Nigerian police custody

At least 33 suspects arrested for alleged illegal mining were found dead in Nigerian security custody on Thursday, officials said, pointing to a suspected disease outbreak in the area.

The detainees died in the custody of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, or NSCDC, in north-central Niger state, its spokesman Abubakar Muti told The Associated Press.

They had been in detention since the security agency carried out arrests on Tuesday and Wednesday over suspicion of illegal mining in the state, head of the NSCDC in Niger Suberu Siyaka Aniviye said in a statement on Thursday.

Aniviye said while the agency suspects a disease, the detainees' bodies have been sent to a local hospital for "further medical examination to establish the actual cause of death." He did not elaborate on the type of disease.

Police in Niger state said they have launched an investigation and urged relatives of the victims to come forward with any information that could



help.

Illegal mining remains a challenge in Nigeria.

Analysts have linked illegal mining

activities in Nigeria's north-central and northwest regions to armed gangs involved in kidnappings for ransom, claiming groups receive funding from the illicit trade. (AP)

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Sports News

Five teams advance in ABFA knockout cup pre-season competition



North Coast Academy FC

Five teams have advanced to the next round of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) pre-season knockout tournament.

The Liberta Blackhawks, Bethesda FC, North Coast FC, Glanvilles FC, and Point West Ham FC all won their opening matches in the preliminary round stage of the ABFA Pre-Season Knockout Cup.

The Liberta Blackhawks and Bethesda both won their matches in penalty shootouts. The Blackhawks prevailed 5-3 on penalties against the Urlings Golden Stars after both teams battled to a 2-2 draw at the Golden Grove playing field.

Dantavan Tomlin scored a late equalizer in the 89th minute for Urlings Golden Stars to salvage the draw at the end of regulation. His teammate Caden Williams scored in the eighth

minute to give Urlings a one-nil lead.

Calvin Reid equalized with a 51st-minute conversion, and teammate Marquis Simpson scored in the 65th minute to give the Liberta Blackhawks a 2-1 advantage.

Bethesda FC prevailed 4-3 on penalties after battling to a 1-1 draw with CPTSA Wings at New Winthorpes. Following a goalless first half, Teori Edwards broke the deadlock with a strike in the 59th minute to put Bethesda FC ahead. Karanja Mack equalized for CPTSA Wings with a 66th-minute conversion.

North Coast FC pulled off a 3-0 victory against Lion Hill FC at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park. The goals were scored by Jervon Jervier in the 11th minute, Andrew Paddy in the 86th, and Neashawn Williams in the first minute of added

time.

Glanvilles FC came from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory against Fort Road at the Fort Road playing field. Jayquanie Nanton snatched the winner for Glanvilles FC with a 64th-minute conversion after teammate Roshaun Martin grabbed the equalizer with a strike in the 37th minute.

Marko Lewis gave Fort Road FC the lead with a conversion in the sixth minute.

Point West Ham were awarded a 3-0 victory via default against Wadadli United, which pulled out of the tournament.

All three winners will advance to the Round of 32, which included 27 teams that were among

the top finishers in last season's second division, as well as the first and premier division clubs.

Those 27 teams were given byes into the Round of 32. Among them are the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades, which won the last ABFA Pre-Season Knockout Cup. The Jennings Grenades will enter this year's tournament as the top-seeded team.

Following a three-season absence, the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) is staging the pre-season knockout tournament to kick-start its 2026/27 domestic competition programme.

The ABFA Pre-Season Knockout Cup was last held in the 2022-23 domestic season.

Another win for BOE in defense of Business Basketball League title



The Board of Education basketball team

The Board of Education (BOE) continued their winning start in defense of their title in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

The Board of Education notched up their second win with an 80-52 drubbing of newcomers, the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT), who lost for the third time in four games.

The Perez brothers, Daniel and Danny, each produced 18 points, Beniah Mark sank 17 points, and Warren Bogle scored 10 points for the Board of Education. Molefi Joseph scored 17 points, and Enrico Josiah converted 11 points for the ABUT.

In their previous outing, the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers suffered their second loss in a 44-73 defeat to Sandals.

Keroi Lee sank 14 points, Selassie Braithwaite and Keaddy Martin each converted 12 points, and Kim Casey

scored 10 points for Sandals. Leon Lawrence converted 12 points, and Molefi Joseph scored 10 points for the ABUT.

Sandals recorded their third win in four matches with a 75-44 drubbing of newcomers, the Philippines. Selassie Braithwaite sank 17 points, and Keroi Lee had 12 points for Sandals.

Ronel Gomez converted 12 points, and Raffi Saladino scored 11 points for the Philippines, who slumped to their third loss in as many games.

After losing their previous two matches, Curtain Bluff Hotel recorded their first win with a 91-50 drubbing of the Philippines.

Webster Baptiste shot a game-high 43 points, Javonte Daley sank 16 points, and Antoine Browne scored 12 points for Curtain Bluff Hotel. Alvin Ferrerco converted 14 points for the Philippines.

Anjo Wholesale maintained their unbeaten start, claiming their third successive win with a hard-fought 66-62 victory over newcomers CTM Auto

Spa, who lost for their first time after winning all three previous matches.

Yohan Nicholas and Gabriel Desuza each scored 13 points for Anjo Wholesale. Donte Trimmingham shot a game-high 26 points, Ryan Sheppard sank 13 points, and Tehran Zachariah scored 12 points for CTM Auto Spa.

In their previous outing, Teran Zachariah shot a game-high 27 points to lead CTM Auto Spa to their third straight win with a 57-50 victory over the Sledge O'Ballers.

Leroy Percival sank 15 points, and Morlon Davis and Ariel Quallis each scored 10 points for the Sledge O'Ballers, who suffered their first loss in two games.

APCMOL kept their unbeaten start intact, claiming their third successive win with a 60-35 victory over the Sledge O'Ballers, who slumped to their second loss in three games.

Humroy Wright converted 21 points for APCMOL. Leroy Percival had 11 points, and Ariel Quallis scored 10 points for the Sledge O'Ballers.

Sports News

UWI and Ministry of Tourism among winners 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 Tourism in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) Business League Competition on Saturday.

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 36-9 victory over the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters A team. Joy Shaw scored 30 of her 45 shots, and Xandea Hobson converted six of her nine attempts for the UWI.

Sophia Wilkins sank four of her 10 shots, Sky Daniel netted three of her seven attempts, and Sequoyah Survia converted two of her eight tries for the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters A team.

The Ministry of Tourism claimed their second win with a victory over the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters B team. Kizzy Hughes sank 21 of her 25 shots, and Krizia Duncan converted 12 of her 19 attempts for the Ministry of Tourism.

Jnai Spencer scored four of her seven attempts, and Alisha Jeremy

converted her three shots for the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters B team.

The Ministry of Tourism launched their campaign in the female division with a 30-7 drubbing of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters A team.

Krizia Duncan converted 18 of her 21 shots, and Kizzy Hughes sank 11 of her 19 attempts for the Ministry of Tourism. Sequoyah Survia scored six of her 16 shots for the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters A team.

Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders maintained their successful start in the mixed division, securing their second win in as many games by snatching a narrow 20-15 victory over the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education.

Ervedine Parker-Barnard netted 11 of her 16 shots, and Carl Kirby sank nine of his 11 attempts for Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders.

Molefi Joseph scored seven of her 10 tries, Adina Andre sank five of her eight shots, and Karol Carlton converted her three attempts for ABUT Ministry of Education.

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West Indies women name squad for Zimbabwe tour



Players of the West Indies senior women's team

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the West Indies Women's squad for the upcoming away series against Zimbabwe, comprising three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and three T20 Internationals (T20Is) from September 24 to October 7, 2026.

Following a successful tour of Ireland and a strong campaign at the recent ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales, the core of the squad has been retained, with limited changes for the upcoming series.

Captain Hayley Matthews will lead the team in the ODI leg before taking personal leave and departing the squad ahead of the T20I series, while veteran Deandra Dottin has also been granted personal leave and will not participate in either series.

All-rounder and Under-19 World Cup prospect Eboni Brathwaite has been selected as Dottin's replacement,

while Chinelle Henry returns to the squad following injury that impacted her T20 World Cup campaign. She replaces Qiana Joseph, who has not been selected for the tour following a drop in form.

The squad will therefore comprise 15 players for the ODI series, reducing to 14 for the T20I series following Matthews' departure.

"We are looking forward to this tour of Zimbabwe," said Head Coach Shane Deitz just prior to departing the region.

"They are a side we haven't played much, and, in their conditions, there will be some challenges. We have a young squad, so this is a great opportunity for some players to step up and take their opportunity at this level."

The series forms part of the West Indies Women's continued preparation across both formats, with the team

looking to build on the progress made during the Ireland tour and the T20 World Cup campaign.

West Indies Women's Squad: Hayley Matthews (captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Eboni Brathwaite, Shemaine Campbelle, Jahzara Claxton, Afy Fletcher, Jannillea Glasgow, Realeanna Grimmond, Shawnisha Hector, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, and Stafanie Taylor.

Team Management Unit: Head Coach Shane Deitz; Team Manager Sheena Gooding; Assistant Coach Ryan Austin; Assistant Coach Ramesh Subasinghe; Assistant Coach Shane Dowrich; physiotherapist Ashley Stephens; Strength & Conditioning Coach Hector Martinez; Performance Coach Dr. Nadine Sammy; and Media & Content Officer John Phillips.

CWI announces limited overs squads for tour of India

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced its squads for the three (3) One Day Internationals and five (5) T20 International matches against India from September 27 to October 18 across eight cities.

The Shai Hope-led sides will face the world's No. 1-ranked team in both formats, with the region's ODI squad retaining the core group of players who featured in the recent home series against Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

John Campbell returns to the squad after missing the final two ODIs against New Zealand due to a hamstring injury.

Ackee Auguste has been ruled out of the tour as he continues his rehabilitation after undergoing surgery in August and is replaced by Jewel Andrew who will serve as a top and middle order batting option.

Shimron Hetmyer, who featured in the last two matches of the New Zealand series, remains committed but has been permitted an extended recovery period post CPL and will join the squad for the T20 series.

The first two matches of the series will bring the cycle for automatic qualification to the ICC Men's 50-Over World Cup to a close.

However, regardless of the results, the West Indies will be unable to surpass their nearest challengers in the



Players of the West Indies men's ODI team.

qualification standings and will therefore participate in the ICC's qualification tournament early next year.

Despite this, Head Coach Daren Sammy reiterated the importance of the series of matches.

"Playing against the top team in the world presents us with a chance to fine tune and improve our performances as an ODI team which has seen quality performances across the cycle," he said.

"The series also creates a valuable platform to assess players who are stepping into important roles for this series with a long-term target of competing in the World Cup in 2027."

On the T20I front, exciting opening batter Kamil Pooran has earned his maiden call-up, reflecting a deliberate approach towards identifying and developing emerging talent ahead of the 2028

T20 World Cup.

The right-handed batter scored 273 runs in eight innings at an impressive strike rate of 159.64 while averaging 39.

Quentin Sampson, who was a member of the ICC T20 World Cup squad earlier this year in India has also been included, while all-rounder Jason Holder has been rested for the series.

The Head Coach spoke on the composition of the squad, which has been assembled with a clear focus on long-term objectives.

"We are looking to build on the momentum from our series win against Sri Lanka, with the long-term goal of developing a strong core of players ahead of the next T20 World Cup. The challenge of playing against the World Champions at home will provide valuable preparation, allowing us to continue improving and devel-

oping both individually and as a collective unit," Sammy said.

The squad departs the Caribbean on September 21 before arriving in Trivandrum on September 23.

West Indies ODI Squad Against India: Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Vitel Lawes, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Sherfane Rutherford, and Jayden Seales.

West Indies T20I Squad Against India: Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Kamil Pooran, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Quentin Sampson, Romario Shepherd, and Shamar Springer.

Team Management Unit (TMU): Head Coach Daren Sammy; Manager Rawl Lewis; Assistant Coach (batting) Floyd Reifer; Assistant Coach (bowling) Ravi Rampaul; Assistant Coach (fielding) Rayon Griffith; physiotherapist Dr. Denis Byam; Strength & Conditioning Coach Darc Browne; Massage Therapist Dane Currency; Performance Analyst Avenesh Seetaram; and Content & Media Officer Jerome Foster.