

SpaceX Among Major Sponsors of Commonwealth Business Forum

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Picture with PM Browne and Antigua and Barbuda General Secretary nominee to the UN Ms. Maria Espinosa (blue suit)

Prime Minister Browne Leads Antigua and Barbuda Delegation to 81st United Nations General Assembly

SpaceX Among Major Sponsors of Commonwealth Business Forum in A&B



United States-based aerospace and telecommunications company SpaceX is being revealed as a major sponsor of the Commonwealth Business Forum, set to be hosted in Antigua and Barbuda from November 2-4, 2026.

The company, founded by the world's richest man, Elon Musk, is one of the latest mega brands to be associated with the CBF, scheduled for the Coolidge Cricket Grounds (Sticky Wicket).

Prime Minister and Finance Minister, the Right Honourable Gaston Browne, told audiences recently on PBN, "Potentially, Elon Musk has indicated that if he is available that he will participate...so we are hoping he will make it here."

SpaceX holds a market valuation of approximately \$2.01 trillion and is one of the most recognizable brands in the world.

Prime Minister Brown said the aim

is to make this a CHOGM with a difference, as he outlined the over-arching goal of increased intra-Commonwealth trade and investment.

A key feature of the CBF will an investment power pitch, providing entrepreneurs and investors across Antigua and Barbuda and the OECS sub-region an opportunity to showcase their business proposals to high net-worth individuals. Some of the proposals could secure an injection of capital and crucial networking opportunities.

Antigua and Barbuda and 55 other nations are members of the Commonwealth, a grouping home to 2.7 billion people, or a third of the earth's population. Prime Minister Browne said all member nations have confirmed their participation, including close to 40 heads of government who have so far indicated they will be attending.

Hundreds of people are expected to gather at Sticky Wicket for the CBF, one of the marquee side events of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. It will bring together Heads of Government, ministers, and the global private sector, creating a unique platform for high-level dialogue, partnership building, and investment promotion.

The forum is a joint undertaking by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

For more information, please visit: www.cweic.org



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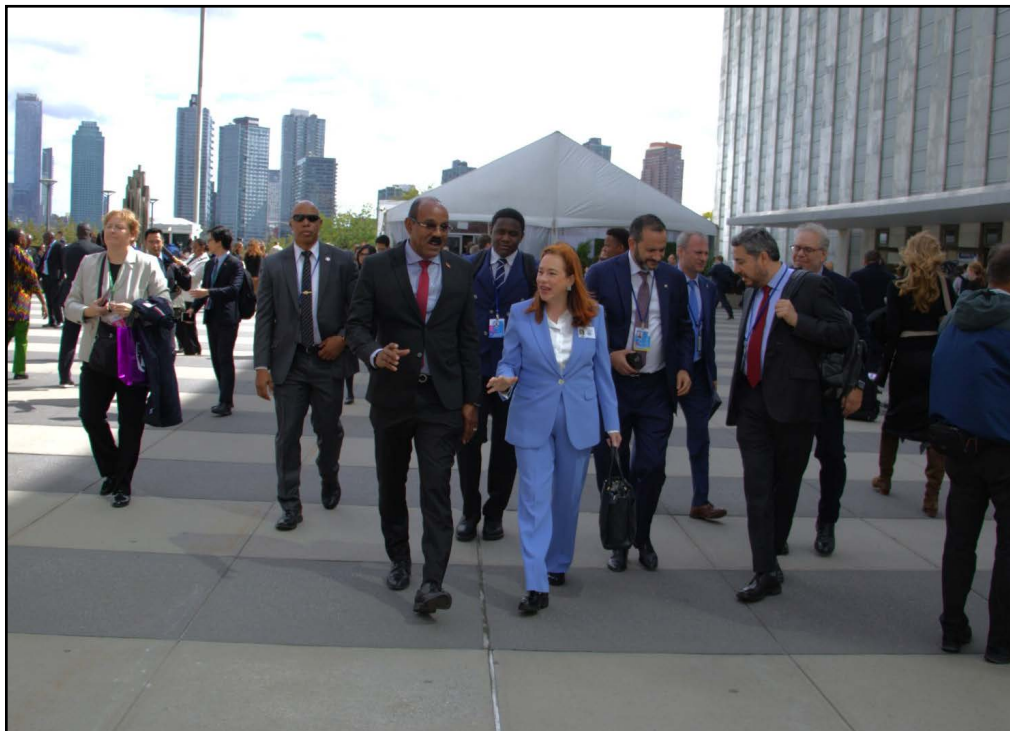
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Prime Minister Browne Leads Antigua and Barbuda Delegation to 81st United Nations General Assembly



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is in New York leading Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81), where he will participate in a packed programme of high-level meetings, bilateral engagements and international forums focused on issues of critical importance to Antigua and Barbuda and other Small Island Developing States.

The Prime Minister is accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene; Minister for Health, Wellness and the Environment, Michael Joseph; and Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson.

The 81st Session is being convened under the theme "Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all." The General Debate is taking place from September 22–28, bringing Heads of State and Government to New York



to address major global challenges.

Prime Minister Browne said Antigua and Barbuda's participation will continue the country's longstanding advocacy for a stronger and fairer international system that recognises the particular vulnerabilities and development needs of small states.

"For Antigua and Barbuda, the United Nations General Assembly is an important opportunity to ensure that the voices and concerns of small states are heard at the highest levels. We come to New York prepared to engage constructively, to strengthen partnerships and to advance practical solutions on the issues that directly affect the development and wellbeing of our people," Prime Minister Browne stated.

Prime Minister Browne's programme started Wednesday with participation in Global Citizen NOW: Impact Sessions, followed by an OECS meeting with the European Union at the EU Delegation to the United Nations. The OECS-EU discussions were scheduled to focus on Citizenship by Investment Programmes, an issue of significant importance to participating OECS Member States.

Later Wednesday, the Prime Minister was scheduled to meet the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.E. Judith Suminwa Tuluka, and former President of the UN General Assembly Maria Fernanda Espinosa. His programme also included participation in an international discussion on eye health and a reception hosted by Prime Minister Browne and Ms. Espinosa who is Antigua and Barbuda's candidate for the post of UN Secretary General.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Browne is scheduled to participate in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Leaders' Meeting, where he will make an intervention. The engagement provides another platform for Antigua and Barbuda to advance issues affecting SIDS within the international system.

Local News



His programme also includes scheduled engagements with India's Foreign Minister; Saudi businessman Yazeed AlYahya, whose company has expressed interest in exploring investment opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda; the Open Society Foundations; and the Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

Prime Minister Browne will also participate in "Powering the OECS: A Renewable Energy Transition Roundtable" on Thursday evening.

The Prime Minister said the range of engagements reflects Antigua and Barbuda's approach of using diplomacy not only to articulate positions internationally but also to pursue concrete opportunities for national and regional development.

"Our diplomacy must deliver tangible benefits for our citizens. Whether we are discussing climate



vulnerability, investment, energy, connectivity, health, development financing or the international treatment of our economic programmes, our objective is to build partnerships that strengthen the resilience and prosperity of Antigua and Barbuda,"

Prime Minister Browne said.

Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene, who recently assumed the Chairmanship of the OECS Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, will support the Prime Minister in several of the diplomatic engagements.

Prime Minister Browne said Antigua and Barbuda will continue to use its international presence to advocate for multilateralism and for a global system that responds meaningfully to the circumstances of small and vulnerable states.

"Small states cannot afford to be spectators in the international system. We must participate, we must advocate, and we must build strategic partnerships. Antigua and Barbuda will continue to make its voice heard and to insist that multilateralism must deliver fairly and effectively for all nations, irrespective of their size," he stated.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
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-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
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Minister Greene advocates at the UN for greater cooperation between Africa and the Caribbean



Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade E.P. Chet Greene is advocating for countries in Africa and those in the Caribbean to seek out deeper and more practical partnerships that will deliver greater opportunities for their people.

Minister Greene made the call during a high-level meeting of the African Union and CELAC on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly, now taking place in New York. CELAC is the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and brings together some 33 countries from across the region and Latin America.

The CELAC-African Union partnership is especially relevant today and this is not lost on Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Affairs Minister. It brings together Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean countries to potentially advocate with one voice on issues ranging from development, climate finance, trade

among a range of others.

They are also held together as countries in the global south by a shared history of colonialism, slavery and the need to find practical cooperation in trade, investment, technology, and climate resilience.

"The CELAC-Africa partnership is of profound strategic importance. Our regions together represent a significant share of the world's population, with considerable economic, human and natural resources. More importantly, we share historical experiences, common development challenges and a strong commitment to a more equitable international order," Minister Greene reminded.

But the Minister noted that their shared aspirations simply are not enough. He noted the time is now to move towards greater practical cooperation. Minister Greene identified strong possibilities for growth for their countries in the areas of trade and investment, connectivity, technology, sustainable agricul-

ture, renewable energy, education, health and the creative industries.

He was however quick to add that there could be no progress if their regions do not move to "address the structural barriers that continue to constrain trade and investment between our regions."

In outlining a vision for the future, the Minister called on his colleagues to move steadfastly towards actualizing a number of key goals that would advance practical cooperation and strengthen the bonds between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

He identified stronger air and maritime connectivity between the regions, greater regulatory and institutional cooperation to facilitate trade and investment, expanded access to development and innovative financing for SMEs and vulnerable economies, and greater use of digital technology to connect businesses, institutions and markets as key priorities that need to be pursued.

He also underscored the need to deepen partnerships in climate resilience and sustainable development, with particular attention to the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States.

"Antigua and Barbuda remains firmly committed to strengthening CELAC-Africa relations based on mutual respect, solidarity, sovereign equality and shared benefit.

Let us use this opportunity to deepen our partnership, strengthen our collective voice in the multilateral system, and advance a development agenda that is more inclusive, resilient and responsive to the needs of our peoples," Minister Greene concluded.

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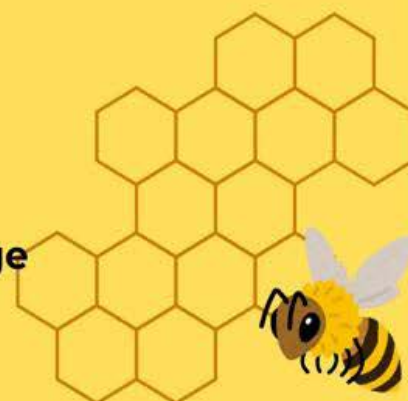


Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center

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Antigua and Barbuda Joins Haiti In Calling for the Full Deployment of Gang Suppression Force

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador, Sir Ronald Sanders, joined Haiti's Ambassador to the Organization of American States, Jean Josué Pierre, in urging OAS member states to join in issuing a Joint Statement calling for the renewal and full deployment of the Gang Suppression Force in Haiti.

The appeal was made at a meeting of the OAS Permanent Council as the United Nations Security Council prepares to consider renewal of the Force's mandate before the end of September. Sir Ronald, who is Dean of the OAS Corps of Ambassadors, said the central purpose of the proposed Joint Statement was "clear and urgent".

"We call upon the United Nations Security Council to renew the mandate of the Gang Suppression Force, and upon the international community to ensure its full and consistent deployment," he declared. He cautioned that renewal of the mandate would achieve little unless governments honoured their commitments of personnel, financing, equipment and logistical support.

"A force authorised on paper but deprived of the resources necessary to fulfil its mandate cannot deliver the security that the Haitian people desperately need," Ambassador Sanders said. "Words of support must now be matched by the resources and resolve that can turn solidarity into security."

The proposed Joint Statement calls for the Force to support the Haitian National Police and the Armed Forces of Haiti in restoring lawful state authority in gang-controlled areas, securing the airport and port, reopening vital transport routes and protecting the population.

It also calls for stronger international action to stop the illicit flow of arms and ammunition into Haiti, disrupt the financial and supply networks sustaining the gangs, and identify, expose and bring to justice those who finance, arm or otherwise enable them.

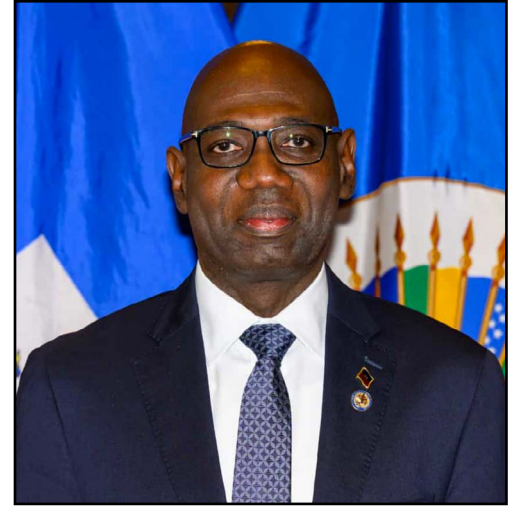
Sir Ronald stressed that "Security must create the space in which consti-



Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador, Sir Ronald Sanders

tutional and democratic government can be restored," he said. "It must also permit humanitarian assistance, economic recovery and opportunity for Haiti's young people."

"Haiti is asking us to help create the conditions in which the Haitian peo-



Haiti's Ambassador to the Organization of American States, Jean Josué Pierre

ple can reclaim their future for themselves," Sir Ronald said. "Let us call with one voice for renewal of the mandate, full deployment of the Force and fulfilment of the commitments made to Haiti."



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Prime Minister's Vision Initiative Continues in Glanvilles

The Prime Minister's Vision Screening Initiative, being conducted by the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Restoring Vision, is now underway in Glanvilles.

The initiative provides eligible residents aged 40 and over with access to free vision screening and reading glasses, helping to improve access to basic vision care within communities.

MP for St. Philip's North and Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Randy Baltimore and MP for St. Philip's South and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation Kiz Johnson, visited the screening site and encouraged residents across their constituencies to come out, get screened and take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

Residents are encouraged to come out, get screened and benefit from free reading glasses where eligible.




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GARD Centre Secures Funding Bee Keeping Initiative Aimed at Women and youth

The Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARD Center) has secured funding through the Global Environment Facility GEF Small Grants Program (GEF SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to undertake the project: *“Building Livelihoods & Conserving Nature: Inclusive Beekeeping for Youth, Women & Men.”*

GEF SGP – UNDP in Antigua and Barbuda supports community-led initiatives that generate global environmental benefits while improving local livelihoods. Through grants to civil society and community-based organisations, the programme promotes biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, sustainable land management, and innovative approaches to sustainable development across the country.

This 18-month project officially began on 11 August 2026, and aims to create a sustainable, community-led Api-Tourism Hub at the GARD Center in Mercers Creek. The site will help restore pollinator-friendly habitats and serve as a national example of climate-smart beekeeping.

The project will combine pollinator conservation, habitat restoration, and agri-tourism to increase pollinator populations, support rural livelihoods, and create new income opportunities for beekeepers, women, youth, and nearby communities.

Key results will include a Pollinator Forage Trail, improved beekeeping and hive management skills, climate-resilient planting systems, greater public awareness of pollinator conservation,



the GARD center

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Creative Arts Competition

For Primary, Secondary and Tertiary educational institutions

Students are invited to create a drawing or painting of a Vetiver floating bed on a poster. Show us your creativity and help spread the message about cleaner water and healthier ponds.

Registration: Monday, 21 September – 23 October 2026
Public Viewing: Wednesday, 11 November 2026
Judging Day: Thursday, 12 November 2026
Announcement of Winning Piece: Monday, 16 November, 2026

All completed pieces are to be delivered to GARD Center, Mercers Creek, St. Peter, by 3:30pm Tuesday, 10 November 2026

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and a market-ready api-tourism experience that connects environmental protection with sustainable economic development.

The GARD Center extends its sincere gratitude to GEF SGP – UNDP, Antigua and Barbuda for its generous donation, which will support the implementation of this project.



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WORLD MARITIME DAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

“From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence”

A message from Arsenio Dominguez Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization



This year, shipping has been tested. Regrettably, too many seafarers have lost their lives to geopolitical conflicts.

Our thoughts are first and foremost with the seafarers and their families who have been affected.

The global supply chains for energy and food have been disrupted.

At IMO, we will always provide strong, steadfast support for shipping and seafarers.

This year's World Maritime Day theme, “From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence”, recognizes the reality that regulations will only deliver safer, more resilient, and cleaner shipping when they are imple-

mented worldwide.

And implementation must make a difference where it matters most – for the people working at sea.

This theme drives our mission to ensure that every Member State is supported to effectively implement IMO regulations.

Our vision is to ensure that all IMO Member States can benefit from the opportunities that the next decade will bring – from embracing digitalization to responding to the energy transition to creating more opportunities for women, so that we can build a more inclusive and diverse maritime sector.

But across all these policies and pri-

orities, one principle must remain constant: Seafarers come first. Always.

On World Maritime Day, IMO Headquarters will be illuminated in blue to symbolize our commitment to turning policy into practice, and I invite all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to join us in lighting up prominent buildings.

Tag us and share your photos or stories on how you turn maritime policy into practice, using the hashtags #WorldMaritimeDay and #Maritime-PolicytoPractice.

Happy World Maritime Day, Everyone!



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Rose Joseph and Guest Attend CPL Finals In Barbados

Flow customer Rose Joseph and guest AJ, who recently attended the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) Finals in Barbados, after Rose won an all-expenses-paid trip through Flow's "We Live For This Summer" promotion.



Flow customer Rose and guest Alex Forde enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Barbados to attend the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) Finals after Rose won the grand prize in Flow's "We Live For This Summer" promotion. The all-expenses-paid experience gave the pair the opportunity to witness the excitement of the CPL's biggest match live

Government Signs MOU for Electric Mobility Ahead of CHOGM 2026



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of electric mobility during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Scheduled for 1st-4th November 2026.

The arrangement is in collaboration with Octopus Energy Generation and the announcement was made during the Global Citizen NOW: Impact Sessions that was held in New York City.

Yesterday's forum brought together government officials, along with business leaders, civil society and other organisations and institutions to "examine what it takes to turn ambition into measurable progress".

While the intricate details of the MoU are yet to be determined,

Prime Minister Gaston Browne acknowledged that Antigua and Barbuda is one of the most fossil fuel dependent nations in the World and said the new relationship forged with Octopus Energy Generation will aid his administration's long-term objective of transitioning to renewable energy.

"We recognize that based on the amount of vehicles on the island, in fact—one for every two homes—that the consumption of fossil fuels utilized vehicles is so significant that we have to approach this issue in a very comprehensive way," Prime Minister Browne stated.

He added that the government must look beyond electricity supplied by the grid and focus on e-mobility.

"This is where Octopus is helping us to accelerate the use of EVs and

certainly for CHOGM, most of the heads will be driven in electric vehicles. So, this will be a tangible demonstration during CHOGM as to the ecosystem that we're developing in Antigua and Barbuda to facilitate that transition".

Prime Minister Gaston Browne declared at the forum that Antigua and Barbuda is poised to become a demonstration island, which will be able to show those who will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting the importance of transitioning to electric vehicles and in so doing, place their respective nations on the path to becoming carbon neutral as soon as possible.

The Antiguan and Barbudan leader argued that such decisions are crucial to saving the planet from the burning of fossil fuel.

Barbuda Upgrades Tsunami Warning System



Barbuda has officially launched an upgraded tsunami early warning and readiness system, with Minister of State within the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation Kiz Johnson describing the initiative as a major milestone in the island's climate and disaster resilience strategy.

Speaking at the launch on the sister isle yesterday, Johnson said the initiative goes beyond the installation of new technology, emphasising that its real value will depend on the ability of residents to respond quickly and effectively when warnings are issued.

"Today marks a monumental milestone for Barbuda and our nation's climate and disaster resilience strategy," Johnson said. "We're doing much more today than unveiling technology. We're actually putting technology into action."

She said the upgraded system represents the Government's commitment to protecting lives and building a safer and more resilient Barbuda.

While tsunamis are relatively rare, Johnson noted that their potential impact can be catastrophic, particularly for a low-lying island such as Barbuda.

"Early detection and rapid organised response are not luxuries. They are absolute necessities," she stressed.

The initiative was developed through collaboration among the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the National

Office of Disaster Services (NODS), the Barbuda Council, international partners and the Barbuda community.

Minister Kiz Johnson expressed appreciation to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office (ITIC-CAR) for providing scientific expertise, advanced modelling and technical assistance.

She also commended NODS Director Sherod James and his team for coordinating the initiative and integrating the upgraded system into the country's wider disaster preparedness infrastructure.

The Barbuda Council, under the leadership of John Mussington, was also recognised for ensuring that local priorities remained central to the project.

Johnson said residents played an im-



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portant role in the initiative through community consultations, evacuation route mapping and readiness exercises.

“To the wonderful and resilient people of Barbuda, my twin island brothers and sisters, this project is for you. And it was built with you,” she said.

The upgraded system includes warning sirens, hazard maps, improved warning hardware and community-tested emergency procedures.

The Minister of State noted that the technology alone cannot guarantee public safety.

“The equipment, sirens and hazard maps are essential, but true resilience lives in our readiness,” she said. “A

warning system only works if the community knows how to respond. This system is just a system by itself without you.”

According to her, Barbudans now have clearer evacuation routes and procedures intended to ensure that residents know where to go when an alarm is sounded.

She said the procedures have been designed to cater to the entire population, from young children to elderly residents, with the objective of ensuring that people can evacuate without hesitation.

The Minister also reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to strengthening early warning systems through

out Antigua and Barbuda, noting that climate change and natural hazards do not respect national or geographic boundaries.

She said strong international partnerships, combined with coordinated local action, will remain critical to maintaining the country’s preparedness.

Minister Johnson described the launch as an example of what can be achieved when science, policy and community participation are brought together around a common objective and dedicated the launch of the Barbuda Tsunami Early Warning System to the protection and resilience of the people of the sister isle.



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IICA Commits to Continued Funding Community Agricultural Projects



The Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA) says it is committed to continuing its community based agricultural projects despite encountering a number of challenges.

An IICA spokesman said the projects in question refer to the implementation of activities under the GEF SGP UNDP funded project to support the Victory Center and the Cedar Grove Primary School.

The project entitled Sustainable Ag-

ricultural Community Outreach and Food Security Programme focuses on innovative technologies currently being implemented to support school gardens.

Due to the prolonged drought conditions caused by El Nino transplanting of seedlings was delayed due to the absence of reliable adequate rainfall for irrigation. This hydroponics system requires fresh water with a low electric conductivity should be between the parameters of 0.00 -0.30.

Several seedlings such as thyme, parsley, lettuce and kale were transplanted to the hydroponics system. Activities will continue this week with capacity building sessions in seedling and nursery management at both schools along with transplanting of seedlings at Cedar Grove Primary School.

IICA continues to coordinate and implement the activities with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and other Government Ministries along with the Private Sector.

Jaquan Shaw Charged With Murder and Attempted Murder In Bathlodge Shooting

The police have arrested and charged 20-year-old Jaquan Shaw of Cashew Hill with the murder of 20-year-old Saquania Anthony, and the attempted murders of 24-year-old Kelvin Samuel and 13-year-old Joshua Meade, all of Bathlodge.

The offences are alleged to have occurred at Bathlodge at approximately 11:30 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2026.

Police responded to reports of a shooting at a residence in the area and found Anthony unresponsive with what appeared to be multiple gunshot wounds. She was subsequently pronounced dead.

Samuel and Meade also sustained gunshot injuries during the incident and were transported to the Sir Lester



Jaquan Shaw

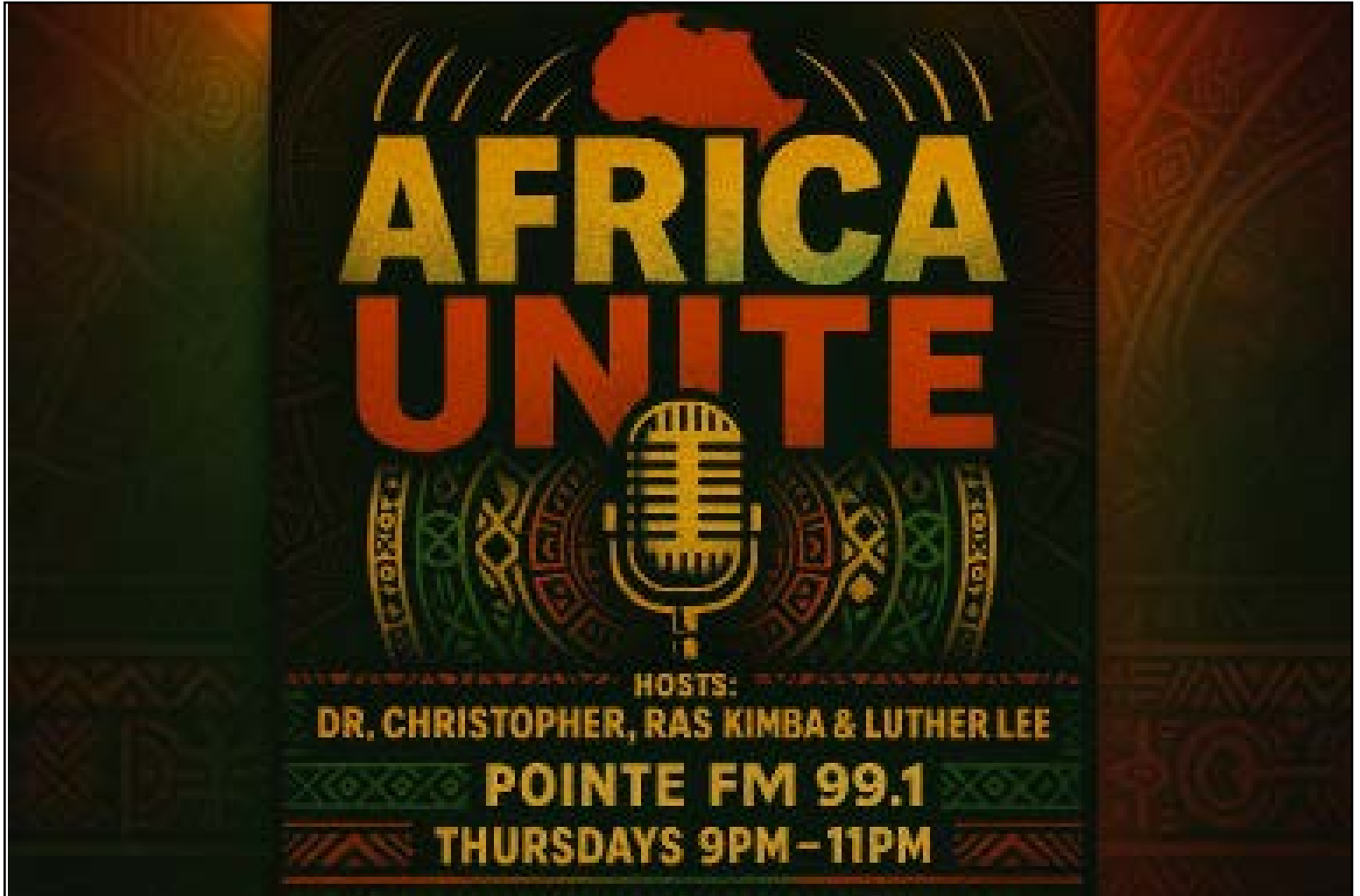
Bird Medical Centre for medical treatment.

Preliminary investigations indicated that several persons were inside the residence when three masked intruders reportedly forced their way into the building and discharged several rounds.

Shaw was subsequently arrested as police intensified their investigations into the incident. He has since been formally charged in connection with the offences.

He is expected to appear before the court this week.

The Police Administration wishes to thank the general public for their assistance, patience, and cooperation, as investigations continue into the matter.



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APPLICATION DEADLINE

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2026
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The US\$3 Billion Jolt

Royal Caribbean Group buys half of Sandals and Beaches Resorts, and the line between the Caribbean's cruise and resort economies blurs

23 September 2026 • Announced in Miami

Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers . julian@caribbeanbridges.com

#SandalsResorts #RoyalCaribbean #CaribbeanTourism #HospitalityMNA
#CaribbeanBridges



Jason Liberty and Adam Stewart sign the agreement in Miami

Photo: Royal Caribbean Group via PR Newswire

US\$3bn

for a 50 per cent stake

~US\$6bn

implied valuation

~10x

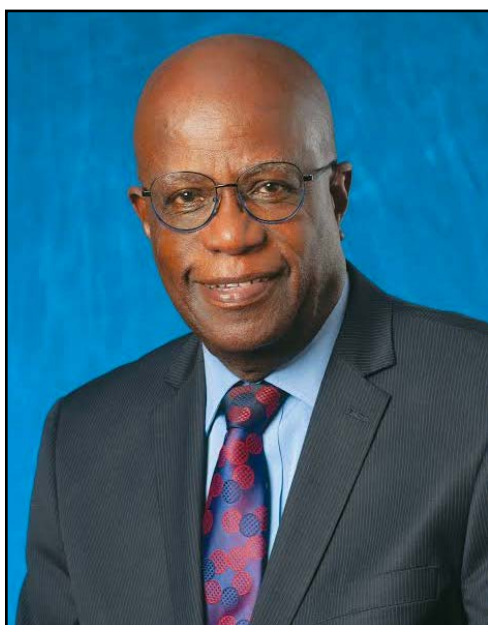
forward EBITDA

Early 2027

expected close

Source: Royal Caribbean Group announcement and market reporting

THE DEAL OF THE DECADE: WHEN CRUISE ARMADAS BUY RESORT CITADELS



By Julian Rogers

While prime ministers and presidents commanded the green marble rostrum at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the economic foun-

dation of the Caribbean tourism economy experienced a lasting tremor on Wednesday.

In a landmark commercial announcement, Royal Caribbean Group agreed to acquire a 50 per cent equity interest in Sandals Resorts and Beaches Resorts for approximately US

The transaction, expected to close in early 2027 subject to regulatory approvals, will be funded via committed debt facilities from Morgan Stanley. It establishes a joint venture co-governed under the shared board leadership of Sandals Executive Chairman Adam Stewart and Royal Caribbean Group Chairman and CEO Jason Liberty.

For the Caribbean Community, this is not merely another corporate merger. It signals the collapse of the historical dividing line between sea-based cruise tourism and land-based hotel operations, with profound consequences

for Caribbean property values, foreign direct investment, and sovereign bargaining power.

The Artificial Divide Dissolves
For decades, Caribbean tourism operated within two deeply suspicious camps. On one side stood the major cruise operators. Critics across the region have long characterised the cruise business as extracting passenger expenditure while leaving local economies with modest passenger head taxes, heavy port waste, and overcrowded dockside markets.

On the other side stood the land-based resort operators, championed as the genuine backbone of domestic development. Hotels purchase local agricultural produce, pay corporate income taxes, shoulder year-round utility overheads, and employ hundreds of thousands of hospitality workers across the islands.

No individual embodied that land-

based crusade more fiercely than the late Gordon “Butch” Stewart. From the founding of Sandals in 1981, he built the enterprise into an adults-only all-inclusive powerhouse precisely by demonstrating that Caribbean hospitality could match any luxury operator in the world, regularly contrasting his deep onshore capital investment with the offshore cruise model.

With one signature in Miami on Wednesday, that multi-decade dynamic entered an entirely new era. By pairing Royal Caribbean’s maritime armada (operating a fleet of 71 ships across its three wholly owned brands, Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, and Silversea, alongside its 50 per cent stake in TUI Cruises) with Sandals’ operational footprint, the joint venture is constructing an enclosed, land-to-sea vacation machine. Cruise passengers can be channeled directly into adults-only beach retreats, family resorts, private beach clubs, and bespoke overland excursions, governed by a unified loyalty ecosystem.

The Western Caribbean Frontier

The strategic significance for the wider region lies in the geography of the ledger. Sandals currently operates its adults-only resorts across eight island destinations: Jamaica, Antigua, Saint Lucia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Curaçao, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Even with Beaches family expansion pipeline actively targeting Exuma, Barbados, Runaway Bay, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the corporate footprint remains exclusively concentrated in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean.

The Caribbean Community’s western mainland, however, remains completely absent from that roster. Belize is not on the Sandals map.

Across the Eastern Caribbean archipelago, beachfront land is scarce, prime coastal real estate is heavily built-out, and ecological resistance to mass development is hardening. In my view, geographic diversification toward the Western Caribbean becomes an inevitable priority for any multi-billion-dollar joint venture determined to expand its footprint.

While Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings established Harvest Caye in southern Belize, and major cruise brands maintain steady call volume through Belize City’s approaches, the Western Caribbean lacks an integrated, private-island luxury enclave that merges high-end resort seclusion with boutique cruise access.

The Caye Calculus: Two Development Paths

This massive injection of corporate capital into regional hospitality directly alters the conversation for private island and coastal asset holders, particularly off Belize’s pristine coastline.

The market broadly presents two distinct paths forward: First, the boutique eco-enclave. A low-impact, 30 to 50-key private-island development focused on luxury overwater villas, dedicated butler service, and high-end yacht or ultra-luxury Silversea tender calls. Such an approach requires a light physical footprint, solar microgrids, and rigorous adherence to Belize’s marine conservation laws and sovereign Blue Bond commitments. Second, the large-format infrastruc-

ture play. At the other end of the spectrum sits large-scale acreage near Belize’s primary deep-water shipping channel, able to accommodate master-planned port integration, potential cruise berthing, marina infrastructure, and an airstrip. **The Sovereign Strategic Question** Beyond private valuations and balance-sheet multiples, this deal presents a major policy challenge for CARICOM governments.

When a single commercial entity controls both the cruise ship bringing the passenger and the resort receiving the guest, the negotiating table between the sovereign state and the multinational operator tilts dramatically.

Will regional governments use their collective tax frameworks and labour laws to ensure that local communities reap genuine rewards from this integrated machine? Or will the region see more of its prime shorelines walled off into foreign-owned private bubbles?

Adam Stewart and Jason Liberty have demonstrated commercial boldness, positioning a homegrown Caribbean brand to compete globally with unprecedented capital behind it. The duty of the region’s economic planners is to ensure that as corporate borders dissolve between the sea and the shore, Caribbean sovereignty and domestic pocketbooks do not get left stranded on the dock. *Julian Rogers MBE is the founder and publisher of Caribbean Bridges. He writes on regional media strategy, corporate development, and Caribbean economic sovereignty.*

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Regional News

CAF approves USD 200,000 to CDEMA to Strengthen Disaster-Resilient Housing Across the Caribbean

The Caribbean is one of the world's most disaster-prone regions, where tropical cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes and other natural hazards continue to place homes, communities and economies at risk. Strengthening the way homes are built before disasters occur can help reduce damage, protect lives and property, and support faster recovery.

CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean has approved US\$ 200,000 in grant funding for the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to implement the Regional Resilient Residential Construction and Reconstruction Project.

Over the next 18 months, the initiative will build on CDEMA's existing Safer Building Programme, to help Caribbean countries strengthen residential construction by equipping builders with new skills, supporting technical training institutions and promoting the adoption of resilient building standards.

The project will focus on the people and institutions that shape the quality of residential construction, including builders, artisans, contractors and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. It will also provide training in resilient construction techniques and support



Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Regional Manager for the Caribbean, CAF.

TVET institutions in integrating the Regional Code of Practice for Residential Construction into their programmes. The initiative will also promote greater awareness of resilient housing standards among homeowners, financial institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders to encourage wider adoption of safer construction practices.

"Rebuilding after a disaster will always be necessary, but preparing before one strikes is where we can make the greatest difference. Resilience begins with the way residential infrastructure is designed and built," said Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Region-

al Manager for the Caribbean, CAF. "This aligns with CAF's commitment to invest not only in resilient infrastructure projects, but also in knowledge, technical capacity and practices that will serve to reinforce a culture of disaster preparedness across the Caribbean. CAF is proud to partner with CDEMA and to provide technical assistance grant funding to support this important project to build more resilient communities."

"Every disaster reminds us that resilience is not built in the aftermath of an event, but through the decisions we make before it occurs. Strengthening the way our homes and communities are designed and built is therefore a critical investment in protecting lives, livelihoods and our development gains," said Executive Director of CDEMA, Elizabeth Riley

She added that, "CDEMA is pleased to be working with CAF to address these challenges by strengthening resilient construction practices, building technical capacity and promoting greater disaster preparedness across the Caribbean. Partnerships such as this are critical to ensuring that our communities are better prepared to withstand the impacts of disasters and that the region's development gains are protected".



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Rule 15

CLAIM No. ANUHPB 2026/0242

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(Probate)**

**In the Estate of SONIA BERNADETTE VANESSA BENJAMIN late of
Parham, St. Peter, Antigua, Deceased**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
FIRST PUBLICATION**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **JESSICA JAMES** of Parham, St. Peter, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 16th day of November, 2024.

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

DATED the 21st, day of September, 2026

CUMBERBATCH & ASSOCIATES

Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

US, Iran officials meet as Trump warns of 'annihilation'

President Donald Trump said US and Iranian officials met yesterday, shortly after threatening in his address to the UN General Assembly that he may “annihilate” the Islamic Republic if a deal isn’t reached soon to end the nearly seven-month war.

Trump confirmed the talks in an exchange with reporters but offered few details about how the discussions transpired or the substance of the exchange.

“It was a very good meeting,” Trump said.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump, in his address to the General Assembly, made the case that he’s shown fortitude while other leaders have equivocated as he defended his decision to start a war with Iran.

But Trump also suggested that he could be at a crossroads in the conflict even as he called on the Islamic Republic to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz and return to the negotiating table to find a settlement to end the conflict.

“I have a big decision to make,” Trump said. “Will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country than it ever was before, maybe one of the greatest in the Middle East or even the world? Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again?”

The president’s comments came in his wide-ranging address to the international body in which he also celebrated this year’s US military operation to oust Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro from power, a new agreement to expand the US military presence in Greenland, and pushed back against calls for greater regulation of the artificial intelligence industry.

But, at the heart of the address was a fulsome defence of the war and push-



back on the notion that Iran has shown a measure of resilience.

“The terrorist regime is behaving badly, not because they are strong and confident, but because they are weak and desperate,” Trump said.

Trump also accused Iran of stalling to make a deal to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz and negotiate an endgame to the war until after the midterm elections in the United States. He insisted the tactic would have no effect on how he approaches the conflict.

Most of Iran’s delegation walked out of the chamber as Trump railed against the Islamic Republic.

After his speech, Trump gathered with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenlandic Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen on the sidelines of the General Assembly to sign a new security agreement.

The deal, announced last week, came together after Trump repeatedly threatened to “take over” Greenland, a territory of NATO-ally Denmark, by military force if necessary. Trump said the US will immediately begin the process of developing a larger military presence in Greenland, includ-

ing “building two very major military bases”.

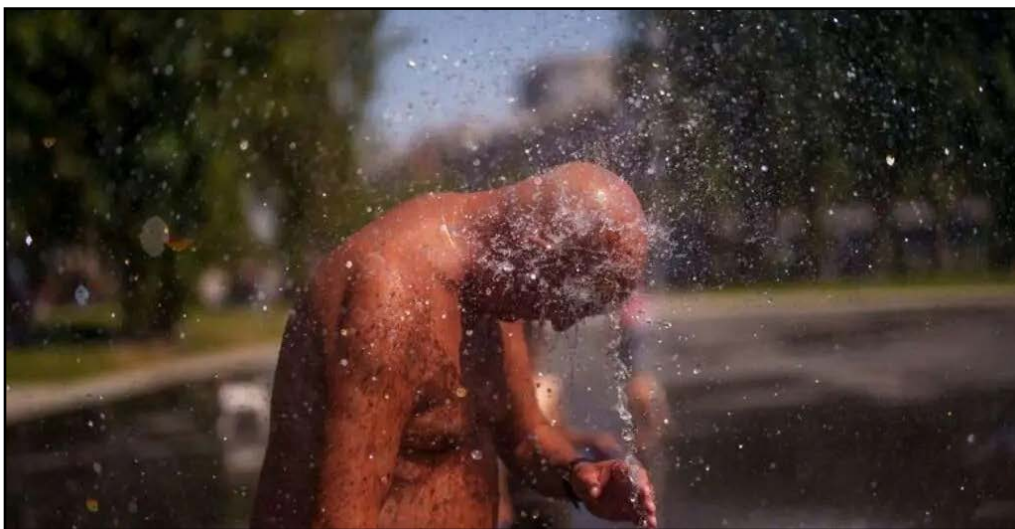
Under the deal, Greenland remains Denmark’s territory.

Trump also held talks with new British Prime Minister Andy Burnham. The leaders said they discussed migration, the conflict in Iran, the Russia-Ukraine war, and more.

Trump also met with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and will hold a more informal meeting with Venezuela’s acting President Delcy Rodríguez, according to the White House.

He’s also scheduled to meet with leaders and senior officials from Gulf Cooperation Council nations — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates — to discuss the way ahead with the war in Iran and growing concern about recent Iran-backed rebel attacks on Saudi Arabia. Trump also plans to take part in an event on the Shield of Americas, an initiative Trump launched with Latin American countries earlier this year focused on combatting violent cartels. (AP)

El Nino could cause 451,000 extra heat deaths — research



This year's powerful El Nino weather pattern could lead to 451,000 additional heat-related deaths worldwide through February as it turbocharges global temperatures, according to projections published on Wednesday.

The warming phenomenon, which was declared in June and is due to peak later this year, is on course to be the strongest on record, amplifying the effects of human-induced climate change.

The estimates by the Climate Impact Lab at the University of Chicago found that developing countries would be hit hardest by the heat-related toll in the June to February period.

The Sahel region in Africa could have an additional 66,800 heat deaths compared to a normal year, with nearly half of that number in Nigeria alone.

An additional 19,300 are projected in Indonesia and 19,400 in the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia.

The toll could reach 15,800 in India and 13,300 in Brazil.

The researchers projected that global land temperatures will be 1.2C above normal in the coming months due in large part to El Nino, leading to 44 percent more extremely hot days than in a regular year.

For the projections, the Climate Impact Lab used research on the relationship between temperature and excess mortality in 24,378 regions, taking local climate and vulnerability into account.

They then combined those findings

with long-range temperature forecasts to estimate excess deaths that could result from El Nino compared with the 1996-2025 average.

Their method will be published in an upcoming peer-reviewed journal.

The report comes a day after the United Nations warned that El Nino represents a significant threat to global health.

The Climate Impact Lab researchers said their projections can help governments and humanitarian organisations take preventive measures to protect people, including heat warnings, cooling centres and hydration stations.

"This report allows decision-makers to see exactly where emergency actions can be taken now to save tens of thousands of lives in the coming months," said Climate Impact Lab co-founder Michael Greenstone. (AFP)

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Regional News

Bill Gates pushes for 'smart use' of AI as his foundation builds more representative language data

Bill Gates told his foundation's Goalkeepers gathering that "increased generosity" and "the smart use of AI" together could accelerate the fight against inequality, urging the world's richest countries to expand international aid and apply artificial intelligence towards what he considers "life-saving innovations".

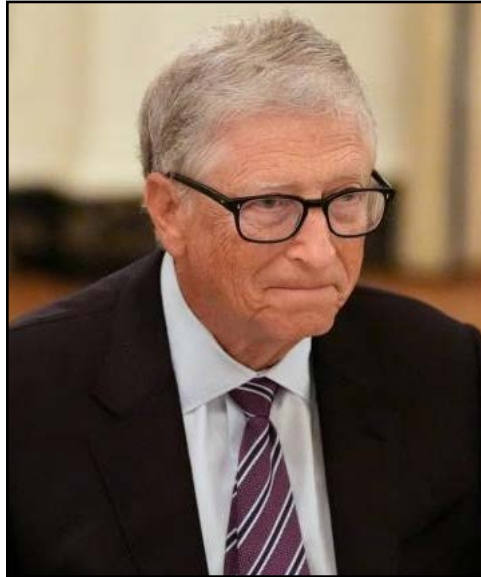
"We failed to build in the right human values and ways of keeping our moral code controlling what these AIs do," Gates, the foundation's chair, said during a Monday conversation with political commentator Van Jones at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York.

The Gates Foundation's annual event, usually hosted the week of the United Nations' high-level meetings, opened with a reminder: 26 of the world's 34 wealthiest nations decreased development aid to poorer countries last year. Meanwhile, the UN has warned that progress on its Sustainable Development Goals — lofty targets to reduce poverty, improve health and protect the environment by 2030 — is "slow and uneven".

The contraction comes at a time when Gates suggested "we have some of the best innovations ever to improve people's lives". His foundation spent much of its two-hour event elevating educators, farmers and health workers who are using AI to identify students' learning gaps, combat pest infestations, and better recall patients' medical records.

The Gates Foundation also touted its new coalition of Anthropic, Google, OpenAI Foundation and dozens of other organisations working to make AI more accessible in underrepresented languages.

The partners — 60 in total, according to Monday's announcement — include frontier AI labs, corporations, philanthropies and others already working to expand the number of languages available in AI tools that the Gates Foundation believes could combat global inequality. The coalition aims to reach more than three billion people over five years by better coordinating existing



efforts.

It's work that must continue "full speed ahead", according to Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman, even as some of the largest AI companies urge their industry to slow down development of advanced models. Governments must regulate the impacts on cybersecurity or children's development, he said, while they extend AI's humanitarian applications to poor communities currently "shut out" from the technology.

"Even if AI was frozen right now — which I don't expect and I am not calling for — we would want to be building these language sets and making them usable with the tools that we have available right now," Suzman told The Associated Press.

The collaboration follows last week's Goalkeepers report, where the foundation committed US\$1 billion towards AI-focused efforts to improve health outcomes, upgrade educational tools, and inform small farmers' practices around the world. Unrepresentative language data could lead a model to mistranslate a pregnant Malawi woman saying her "water has broken" into the direct English that she'd "thrown away water", the report warned.

The "original sin" is that many AI tools were trained on language data scraped from the Internet, according to Mozilla Data Collective CEO E.M.

Lewis-Jong, whose company was incubated by the Mozilla Foundation and is now a subsidiary of the not-for-profit Mozilla.org. The data-sharing platform seeks to help communities upload cultural and linguistic data sets on their own terms, rather than have that data taken from the Web without their explicit consent.

"The Internet is not a representative space," she said. "Why would you think that you were going to get a culturally diverse and representative system out of something that was predominantly trained on Reddit?"

Details such as the coalition's governance are still getting hammered out, according to Suzman. A secretariat will track each signatory's commitments and the Gates Foundation may nudge partners to fill larger gaps when necessary.

Google, a member of the coalition, has been funding an effort to collect more than 150,000 hours of audio across every district in India. Known as Project Vaani, the push underscores the need to gather speech data on dialects within languages, according to Google Senior Vice-President James Manyika. To get there, he said, Google is working with local partners to record speech in the field.

Anthropic, whose CEO published an essay calling for industry-wide cooperation on decelerating advancements, was already working with the foundation to speed up vaccine developments and bolster its chatbot's data set of local crops. Elizabeth Kelly, the head of beneficial deployments at Anthropic, acknowledged the company's products "lag in many African languages in particular".

"We're acutely aware that we can't achieve any of the benefits we want to see in terms of improving patient outcomes or improving literacy and numeracy for students across the globe, unless we actually get this language piece right," she told AP. (AP)

At least 11 people killed in South Africa township shooting



At least 11 people, including a pregnant woman, have been killed after armed men stormed a house in a township in the South African city of Durban.

The attack took place late on Tuesday, according to Thamsanqa Ntuli, the premier of KwaZulu-Natal province, of which Durban is the main city. Assailants entered the home shortly before 11pm (21:00 GMT) while the victims were gathered at a house party.

Two people survived the attack, Ntuli said, adding the motive behind the killings was not immediately clear.

“The incident has left the community in profound shock and grief,” he said.

Local broadcaster eNCA reported that the attackers forced everyone into a single room before opening fire. They also set fire to a car belonging to one of the victims.

“It’s shocking and sad. These are guys I grew up with. I can’t believe it.

It’s like a movie,” a resident told the broadcaster.

“I’ve been staying here all my life, and I’ve never seen anything like this,” he added.

According to a police statement cited by eNCA, preliminary investigations indicated that some of those killed were on South Africa’s Crime Intelligence radar over suspected illegal activities, though the statement did not elaborate further.

“Although the motive for the shoot-

ing has not yet been confirmed, a feud between rival groupings cannot be ruled out,” the police said.

South Africa has one of the world’s highest murder rates, with an average of about 60 people killed daily in a population of roughly 62 million.

In March, soldiers were deployed alongside national police to violent hotspots to tackle rampant crime, an issue President Cyril Ramaphosa has described as one of the country’s biggest threats. (AFP)

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Chilling confession: 15-year-old admits to killing 64-y-o woman, hiding her body

Police here say a 15-year-old school-boy has been charged with murder after he confessed to using a screwdriver to fatally stab his 64-year-old neighbour then dragged her body to hide the gruesome crime.

The victim, Hyacinth Rose Johnson, a domestic helper, was killed in Union district, Grantham, north-west Clarendon in July.

“The police continued their investigation, which led them to the arrest of this young man. He was arrested on Saturday and on Monday, while being interviewed in the presence of his mother and two justices of the peace, he confessed to using a screwdriver to stab the female to death. He indicated that he was not provoked by the female, and that he doesn’t know why he [killed] her. The incident occurred at his home, which is in front of the home of the deceased,” a police source told the Jamaica Observer Tuesday.

Police dispelled rumours that Johnson, also called June, had been sexually assaulted by her killer. Police said the teen, who is a student at a prominent high school, confessed to moving the woman’s body to the back of her house.



“We have no evidence that she was sexually assaulted. Her clothing was found in a certain position; that is why persons were of the view that she was sexually molested. She was drawn by him, in a bid to hide the crime, from his premises to another premises. In the process [her underwear] were pulled down to her ankles,” the police source said.

A police report outlined that about 7:00 am on July 1 residents of Union

stumbled upon Johnson’s body at the back of her house. Police said the body had stab wounds to the chest. Five days later, placard-bearing residents dressed in red and black marched through the community, protesting Johnson’s gruesome murder.

Member of Parliament for Clarendon North Western Richard Azan said Johnson was a mother of four who lived alone.

“People are outraged about it, because June was not a person who gave trouble. June went around washing and cleaning [homes] for people. She was a hard-working churchwoman. I said it at the funeral [on August 29], and I said it at a community meeting. I said we have to find this one; that was clear in my mind and we arranged community meetings and all of that with the police and everybody,” said Azan.

“I am so disappointed that a young person could be able to [allegedly] commit a crime on someone in a community who gave service to the same community by helping other persons. She could be the grandmother of the person [accused of] committing the crime,” added Azan. (Jamaica Observer)

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Sandals, Royal Caribbean seal 50-50 deal



Royal Caribbean Group and Sandals Resorts have sealed a landmark 50-50 partnership, ending speculation that the global cruise giant would acquire majority ownership of the Jamaica-born resort company.

The agreement, confirmed last night after a day of intense market speculation, will see Royal Caribbean invest approximately US\$3 billion for a 50 per cent equity interest in Sandals and Beaches Resorts.

The deal brings together two of the Caribbean's most powerful vacation businesses and gives Sandals additional resources to accelerate expansion, while providing Royal Caribbean with an immediate foothold in the lucrative all-inclusive resort market.

For Sandals Executive Chairman Adam Stewart, however, the partnership carries particular significance, validating a vision his late father, Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, had when he started Sandals in Montego Bay more than four decades ago.

"My father, Gordon 'Butch' Stewart,

founded Sandals Resorts with the belief that a company built in the Caribbean could stand on the world stage alongside the most respected names in hospitality. Today is proof of how far that vision can go," Stewart said.

"This partnership is the natural next step in building on that conviction.

Stewart said Royal Caribbean's investment will give Sandals the ability to grow faster while preserving the values and identity on which the company was built.

"It gives us the ability to grow faster with a partner that shares our values of exceptional hospitality, long-term investment, and the power of enduring brands," he said.

"Together, we will introduce more guests to Sandals and Beaches Resorts while creating even more extraordinary experiences for those who have made our resorts part of their lives for decades."

Royal Caribbean Group Chairman and CEO Jason Liberty sees the transaction from the other side of the

equation — bringing a highly recognised all-inclusive resort portfolio into a vacation platform that already stretches across oceans, private destinations and, beginning next year, river cruising.

Royal Caribbean Group operates 71 ships through Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Silversea, serving more than 1,000 destinations across all seven continents. It also has a 50 per cent joint venture interest in TUI Cruises.

"For nearly 60 years, we've reimagined what a vacation can be, constantly expanding the ways we inspire our guests to explore, connect and create lifelong memories," Liberty said.

He described the Sandals partnership as an "important next step" in Royal Caribbean's evolution.

"The Stewart family has created powerful and beloved brands, and we are honoured to build on that legacy," Liberty said.

"Together, we see tremendous opportunity to expand the reach of Sandals and Beaches Resorts and continue turning the vacation of a lifetime into a lifetime of vacations."

The companies are targeting a global vacation market they estimate at approximately US\$2 trillion, with Royal Caribbean looking beyond its traditional cruise business and Sandals seeking to satisfy growing international demand for its resorts.

Under the partnership, they will explore opportunities to broaden distribution, deepen guest engagement and make it easier for travellers to discover experiences across their respective portfolios.

That could ultimately create considerably greater crossover between Royal Caribbean's cruise passengers and Sandals and Beaches' resort guests.

International

AROUND THE WORLD

In an interview with Travel Weekly ahead of the announcement, Liberty indicated that the companies also see potential to connect their loyalty programmes, allowing guests' status with one company eventually to be recognised by the other.

Significantly, the confirmed terms differ from speculation circulating Tuesday that Royal Caribbean would acquire a 51 per cent interest in Sandals.

Instead, the companies have agreed on an equal partnership.

The joint venture will be governed by a board under the shared leadership of Stewart and Liberty, while Stewart will remain executive chairman of Sandals and Beaches Resorts and continue guiding the company's long-term strategic growth.

Existing reservations, loyalty programmes, resort operations and Royal Caribbean's cruise operations will continue as usual.

Royal Caribbean has secured committed debt financing from Morgan Stanley to fund the approximately US\$3-billion investment, which represents a forward EBITDA multiple of approximately 10 times.

The transaction is expected to close in early 2027, subject to customary approvals and closing conditions, and Royal Caribbean expects it to be accretive to earnings next year.

For Stewart, the partnership's future growth will not mean abandoning Sandals' Caribbean roots.

"As we continue to grow, we will remain true to what has always defined us: delivering authentic vacations that exceed expectations while creating opportunities for our team members, travel advisor partners and the communities we call home," he said.

"The future has never been brighter, and I know this moment would make my father incredibly proud." (Jamaica Gleaner)



Staff shortages, workload burdens threaten SVG port operations



Concerns are mounting over working conditions and operational efficiency at the St Vincent Modern Port Operations Company following statement excerpts published on social media by affected employees.

Workers within the port's Operations Department are raising alarms over severe staff shortages, denial of earned vacation leave, and unreasonable workload burdens resulting from recent administrative transfers.

According to statements circulated online, port management previously transferred experienced personnel out of the Operations Department under the rationale that the division was "overstaffed".

However, employees report that the

department is now facing a severe worker shortage, even as new personnel continue to be recruited and placed in other departments across the organization.

The reassignment of staff with years of institutional knowledge has forced the remaining workforce to carry out the duties of multiple roles simultaneously. Workers highlighted that this excessive burden poses legitimate risks to employee welfare, operational efficiency, and the overall safety of port operations.

The ongoing staffing pinch has also led to employees being denied access to their earned vacation leave.

Affected workers argued that staff should not have to bear the personal

consequences of management decisions that left operations understaffed, urging leadership to conduct an urgent, transparent review of staffing needs and consider returning experienced personnel to their original positions.

The issue gained wider public attention during a local radio broadcast, where commentators expressed concern that port workers felt forced to use anonymous social media accounts to make their voices heard rather than relying on union intervention.

The radio hosts criticized union leaders for failing to address the workers' plight and advised port staff to utilize legal protections against unfair treatment or consider forming a dedicated port workers' union to represent their interests. (St Vincent Times)

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Runway incursions could end in tragedy - Aviation operators warn

The Aviation Operators' Association of Guyana (AOAG) is warning that the growing threat of animals, people and other obstructions entering active runways, particularly at hinterland aerodromes could result in a serious aviation tragedy if urgent measures are not taken.

The warning comes in the wake of the recent aircraft occurrence at Mabaruma, where an aircraft ran off the runway during landing following an animal incursion. While the circumstances of that incident remain under investigation by the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), the AOAG said the broader problem of animals and people entering aerodrome operating areas has been a longstanding concern for aircraft operators.

According to the association, an aircraft taking off or landing is at one of the most critical stages of flight, leaving pilots with very little time to respond when an unexpected obstruction appears on the runway. A dog, cow, horse, pig, bird, person, vehicle or other obstruction could force a pilot to make an emergency decision within seconds, including aborting a take-off, executing a go-around, applying heavy braking or taking evasive action.

The AOAG said such actions could place passengers, crew and aircraft at considerable risk. The association stressed that hinterland aerodromes are not merely transportation facilities, but critical lifelines for communities, providing access to medical evacuations, food and other supplies, passenger transportation, government services, tourism and emergency re-



sponse.

"Protecting these aerodromes must therefore be a shared responsibility," the AOAG said.

It is calling on residents living near aerodromes to keep livestock away from airport boundaries, refrain from crossing runways and desist from damaging perimeter fences.

Residents are also being urged to immediately report any animals, persons or other hazards observed within restricted areas. At the same time, the AOAG is calling on aerodrome operators and the relevant authorities to strengthen runway inspections, perimeter security, wildlife-control measures and systems for reporting and responding to hazards.

The association said the objective should not be to assign blame, but to prevent an avoidable tragedy. "A runway is not a roadway, foot-path or grazing area," the AOAG warned, stressing that when an aircraft is taking off or landing, "even a few seconds can mean the difference between a normal operation and a serious accident." The association is therefore appealing to communities across Guyana to help protect

hinterland aerodromes and the lives of the passengers, pilots and communities that depend on them. The AOAG also called on the GCAA to "assert its authority" and ensure that all aerodromes in Guyana are properly regulated and meet the required aviation safety standards.

Last Thursday a black dog running onto the Mabaruma runway during the landing of a Trans Guyana Airways (TGA) aircraft forced the pilot to take evasive action, sending the aircraft off the runway and triggering renewed concerns about safety at Guyana's hinterland aerodromes. The Cessna Caravan, registered 8R-GCC, was landing at approximately 8:15 a.m. with 12 passengers aboard when, according to TGA, the pilot spotted an animal entering the aircraft's path during the landing roll. The pilot reportedly applied the brakes aggressively, after which the aircraft skidded off the runway and came to rest sideways.

No injuries were reported, although the passengers were taken for medical assessment. The aircraft, however, sustained significant damage and was rendered inoperable, according to TGA.

The incident prompted TGA to renew its call for urgent action to address what it described as the recurring problem of animals and even people gaining access to government-owned and operated hinterland airports. In a statement issued last Friday, the airline said the incident represents a "considerable concern" because such incursions pose a continuing threat to commercial and private aircraft using the aerodromes.

TGA said it had already raised the issue with the Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), including a correspondence dated 9th September and 16th June, 2026. The airline said it was releasing those letters publicly in light of Thursday's incident at Mabaruma.

The airline is now calling for the matter to be urgently addressed, particularly as several hinterland airports are undergoing significant expansion and development. TGA said it remains available to work with the GCAA, other licensed aircraft operators and the Aviation Operators' Association of Guyana (AOAG) to find a solution. Meanwhile, the GCAA has launched an investigation into the Mabaruma incident. The authority said preliminary information indicates that the aircraft experienced a runway excursion and that its Accident and Investigation Team was dispatched to the site to conduct a detailed assessment. The investigation will determine the circumstances surrounding the incident and the factors that led to the aircraft leaving the runway. (Kaieteur News)



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More success for BOE in defense of Business Basketball League title



The Board of Education basketball team

The Board of Education (BOE) extended their unbeaten start to four games in defense of their title in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on Tuesday evening.

The Board of Education notched up their fourth win with a 78-30 drubbing of newcomers Christos in the second game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Danny Perez shot a game-high 18 points, Beniah Mark sank 15 points, Xavier "X-Man" Meade converted 11 points, and Warren Bogle scored 10 points for the Board of Education.

Kirwan Peterson scored nine points for Christos, who lost for the fifth time in as many games.

The Sledge O'Ballers rebounded from three successive losses to record their second win in five games with a 78-52 victory against the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLB-MC) in Tuesday's opening encounter.

Ariel Quallis sank 17 points, and Leroy Percival and Terry Roberts each converted 14 points for the Sledge O'Ballers. Raheem Charles shot a game-high 23 points, and Regillio Cisse scored 13 points for SLBMC, who tumbled to their fourth defeat in five games.

Curtain Bluff Hotel claimed their second win in five games by pulling off a narrow and hard-fought 59-53 victory over fellow newcomers CTM Auto Spa in the final encounter on Tuesday.

Webster Baptista and Javonte Daley each converted 13 points, and Tyrese White scored 12 points for Curtain Bluff Hotel.

Donte Trimmingham shot a game-high 22 points, and Hansel Piper scored 10 points for CTM Auto Spa, who suffered their second straight loss after winning all three previous matches.

Prolific start for AGHS in School Girls Knockout Cup

The Antigua Girls High School got off to a prolific start to their campaign and advanced to the semi-finals in the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean School Girls Knockout Cup on Tuesday.

Forward Nafisa Quashie scored seven times as the Antigua Girls High School launched their campaign with a 10-0 drubbing of Jennings Secondary School at the Golden Grove playing field.

Quashie had conversions in the 15th, 16th, 19th, 31st, 37th, 44th, and 47th minutes. Yanalis Martin converted twice with strikes in the second and 53rd minutes, and Blessings Creese scored the other goal for AGHS in the 23rd minute.

Princess Margaret School, Pares Secondary School, and Clare Hall Secondary School also got off to winning starts and advanced to the semi-finals.

Princess Margaret School prevailed 2-0 over Ottos Comprehensive School at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Pares Secondary School snatched a 3-2 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School at the Golden Grove playing field.

Denovia Jarvis converted twice with strikes in the 32nd and 48th minutes, and teammate Keitonya Skepple scored the other goal for Pares Secondary with a 49th-minute conversion.



Nafisa Quashie, right, celebrates after scoring a goal for the AGHS football team. (File Photo)

The goals for St. Mary's Secondary School were scored by Phyana Peters in the 25th minute and Zahkiya Morgan in the 38th minute.

Clare Hall Secondary School prevailed 4-1 in a penalty shootout against All Saints Secondary School at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The match was decided via a penalty

shootout after both teams battled to a goalless draw at the end of regulation.

The semi-finals will be contested at the ABFA Technical Center on Wednesday, September 30.

The Antigua Girls High School will meet Pares Secondary School, and Princess Margaret School will clash with Clare Hall Secondary School.



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Deitz relishing tour of Zimbabwe with young Windies squad



Shane Deitz

HARARE, Zimbabwe – West Indies Women's head coach Shane Deitz believes the upcoming Zimbabwe white-ball tour will present a valuable opportunity for the team's younger players to make their mark.

Cricket West Indies recently named a 15-player squad for the tour, which will see the West Indies Women play three ODIs between September 24 and 30 before the three-match T20I series begins from October 3 to 7.

Veteran Deandre Dottin and opener Qiana Joseph have not been named in the squad, paving the way for younger players to

prove their worth on the tour.

Deitz said he expects a challenge from the home side and is looking forward to some of the more inexperienced players making a strong case for themselves to become regulars in the team.

"We are looking forward to this tour of Zimbabwe. 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," Deitz said.

Additionally, he said the tour would also provide the West In-

dies with an opportunity to build on the progress made across their recent assignments, while giving a number of younger players the chance to gain further experience at international level.

Zimbabwe currently sit 10th in the Women's Championship standings, having lost all six of their matches in the current cycle, while the West Indies occupy fifth position with four wins from nine matches and arrive in Zimbabwe after a 3-0 ODI series sweep against Ireland.

The tour will mark the first bilateral series between the two teams across formats.

Jamaica Kingsmen captain Rovman Powell

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Despite falling agonisingly short in their bid to capture their first Caribbean Premier League (CPL) title, captain of the Jamaica Kingsmen Rovman Powell said he is still proud of the team's performance.

The Kingsmen, the CPL's newest franchise, went down by eight wickets to the Antigua & Barbuda Falcons in the final at Kensington Oval on Sunday, to give the Falcons their maiden title.

Reflecting on the tournament, Powell said the team had shown resilience to bounce back from losing their first three matches to make the playoffs and the final.

While admitting he was disappointed not to have won the title, he said there were lots of positives to take away.

"It's a good feeling, to be honest. I think it's a very hard-fought campaign for us. I'm so proud of the boys. I honestly feel it's a proud journey for us. We have accomplished a lot of things. We set out to be in the finals, and when we came to the tournament, we wanted to see if we could progress all the way," Powell said.

"It was a slow start to the competition as we lost our first few games, but we built a little bit of momentum with our home crowd back home in Jamaica, and from there the guys started to believe that we could actually play cricket.

"We went to Trinidad, which is a difficult place to play cricket, and we played a very good game down there. That confidence kept building within the team. We knew that as soon as we squeezed into the last four of the competition how dangerous our team could be, and the guys just kept chipping in.



Jamaica Kingsmen captain Rovman Powell

"Credit has to be given to them and I am actually proud of the boys," throughout the entire competition. he added. They listened to the leadership that myself and the head coach provided,

Winning start for Grenades in ABFA pre-season knockout cup



Jennings Grenades

Top seed and defending champions Sandals and Inet Grenades made a winning start in defense of their title in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) pre-season knockout tournament on Tuesday.

The Jennings Grenades launched their campaign in the Round of 32 of the ABFA Pre-Season Knockout Cup with a commanding 9-0 drubbing of Bethesda FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Howayne "Headsley" James struck a second-half hat trick, while Tony Lorrente Sanchez and Chace Joseph each scored twice for the Grenades.

James had conversions in the 52nd, 64th, and 85th minutes. Sanchez had goals in the first and 64th minutes, while Joseph scored in the 38th and 39th minutes.

Obafami Poyotte had a 22nd-minute conversion, and Bethesda's Rojae Dowe scored an own goal in the 11th minute.

Third-seed Pigotts Bullets and fourth-seed Old Road FC also got off to winning starts in their campaigns in the Round of 32.

The Pigotts Bullets shot their way to an emphatic 10-0 victory over Glanvilles FC at the Pigotts playing field. Gisner Joseph struck a hat trick, and Kemoi Walsh scored twice for the Bullets.

Joseph had conversions in the sixth, 33rd, and 51st minutes, while Walsh found the back of the net with strikes in the 10th and 29th minutes.

The other goals were scored by Akeem Isaac (13th), Kamari Elien (23rd), Dorien Cole (26th), Antoniel Campbell (56th), and Tyrique Thwaites (86th).

Old Road snatched a 3-2 victory against North Coast FC at the Golden Grove playing field. Goals by Rakeem Joseph in the 10th minute, Jayvaughn Joseph in the 23rd minute, and Carlos Ibarra Molina in the 37th minute gave

Old Road FC a 3-0 lead at halftime.

North Coast FC reduced the deficit by scoring twice in the second half via goals by Mario Lewis in the 47th minute and Taji Wright in the 70th minute.

However, the other Round of 32 match between second-seed Aston Villa Lions and the Liberta Blackhawks at the Keithley Sheppard Park was postponed. That match has been rescheduled to take place on Tuesday, September 29.

The Round of 32 will continue with four matches on Thursday. Garden Stars will meet Point West Ham at New Winthorpes, and the Potters Tigers will take on Sea View Farm FC at Sea View Farm. Both matches will kick off at 5:30 pm.

In a double-header at Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park, Green City FC will tackle Police FC at 5 pm, and the Greenbay Hoppers FC will clash with Real Blizzard FC at 7 pm.