

Government Publishes Proposed TCN Agreement with the US

Story on page 2



FIFA President Infantino and PM Browne Agree on Expanded Programme to Develop Football in Antigua and Barbuda

Local News

Government Publishes Proposed TCN Agreement with the US

The Antigua and Barbuda government has published the framework agreement between itself and the government of the United States through which it will accept what is generally referred to as 'Third Country Nationals' who have been expelled from the US.

Under the agreement, the Antigua and Barbuda government retains the right of refusal of anyone suggested by the US on several grounds detailed in the agreement. Additionally, the government indicated that it will not accept more than seven (7) persons over a three-month period.

The agreement calls for the US to retain responsibility for the financial well-being of these individuals whilst in Antigua and Barbuda and also to be responsible for the financing the departure of the individuals when that time comes.



The agreement asks that the individuals identified by the US to be transferred to Antigua and Barbuda must be told this in a language that they understand and that this transfer is a temporary arrangement. The decisions on any application for permanent status are solely in the hands of the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The government has also indicated that it will only accept nationals from Haiti, Brazil and Colombia under this arrangement and that it needs at least ten business days' notification and the provision of all relevant documentation before any transfer can take place.

The full text of the proposed agreement is printed below.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99



-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
\$17.99



OPERATING PROCEDURES REGARDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS

Section 1: Purpose

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda intend to use the following Operating Procedures in connection with activities conducted consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda concerning the Removal of Third Country Nationals, signed at Washington on December 19, 2025 (hereinafter, "the MOU"). For the avoidance of doubt, these Operating Procedures do not create any obligation on the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to accept any person or any minimum number of persons. No transfer is to occur without the prior express written approval of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in each individual case.

Section 2: Eligibility of Individuals for Removal

- a) Individuals eligible for removal to Antigua and Barbuda under the MOU are individuals who are:
 - i) Third-country nationals with final or expedited orders of removal; and ii) Individuals who received medical authorization to travel from the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security; and iii) Individuals who, after being informed in a language they understand that the proposed destination is Antigua and Barbuda, of the nature of the proposed transfer,

of the intended temporary nature of their reception in Antigua and Barbuda, and of the options available following arrival, have indicated in writing their willingness to be transferred to Antigua and Barbuda. Only nationals of Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), other than Haiti, and nationals of Brazil and Colombia are eligible to be proposed for transfer to Antigua and Barbuda under these Operating Procedures. No national of any other country may be proposed for transfer unless the Government of Antigua and Barbuda expressly agrees otherwise in writing in advance.

No individual may be proposed for transfer unless that individual possesses a valid, unexpired passport issued by his or her country of nationality and valid for return to that country, and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is satisfied, on the basis of information provided before approval, that there is a realistic and lawful pathway for the individual to be admitted or readmitted to the country of nationality or to another onward destination acceptable to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. A copy of the passport and information reasonably demonstrating the feasibility of such admission or readmission, including any known legal, diplomatic or practical impediment to return or onward

movement, are to be provided before approval.

- b) Individuals not eligible for removal to Antigua and Barbuda under the MOU are:
 - i) Individuals under the age of 18;
 - ii) Citizens or nationals of Antigua and Barbuda; and
- iii) Individuals with a criminal record or known criminal history, except where the only such history concerns violations of U.S. immigration law; and
- iv) Individuals subject to a judicial or administrative stay, or another known legal impediment to transfer from the United States.

Individuals with a serious medical, psychiatric or other condition requiring continuing treatment or specialised care that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda determines cannot reasonably be accommodated without disproportionate demand upon its health or social services; and Individuals who are pregnant, require ongoing specialist medical treatment, or have identified vulnerabilities requiring substantial continuing care, unless expressly approved in writing by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda after full disclosure of the relevant circumstances and satisfactory arrangements for all associated care and costs.

Local News

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda retains sole discretion to approve or decline any proposed individual, in whole or in part, and is not required to provide reasons for its decision. A person not expressly approved in writing by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is not to be placed on a flight to Antigua and Barbuda. Where an individual is transported to Antigua and Barbuda without the prior express written approval of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, or where it is established upon arrival that the individual materially fails to satisfy the agreed conditions for transfer because information or documentation provided before transfer was materially inaccurate, incomplete or deficient, the Government of the United States of America is expected promptly to receive the individual back and to bear all costs associated with the individual's return and with his or her presence in Antigua and Barbuda pending return.

Section 3: Preliminary Number of Individuals Removed

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda intend that no more than seven (7) individuals in total be transferred during each successive three-month period, the first such period commencing on the effective date of these Operating Procedures. This number is a maximum and does not constitute a commitment by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to accept any minimum number of persons. Unused places do not carry forward from one three-month period to another. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda may, at its sole discretion, agree in writing to a higher number. In every case, each proposed individual remains subject to prior express written approval by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Nothing in this Section creates an expectation that seven persons, or any minimum number of persons, will be accepted in any three-month period.

Notwithstanding the quarterly maximum, no further transfer is to occur if seven (7) or more individuals previously transferred under these Operating Procedures remain in Antigua and Barbuda, unless the Government of Antigua and Barbuda expressly agrees otherwise in writing. For the avoidance of doubt, this concurrent-presence limitation is an additional safeguard and does not create any obligation to accept persons up to that number.

Section 4: Cooperation for Assistance

No transfer is to occur unless written financial and operational arrangements satisfactory to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda are in place providing for the Government of the United States of America, consistent with applicable law and regulation, to provide, or cause to be provided, the full cost of accommodation, subsistence, medical and other necessary care, documentation, local transportation, interpretation, reasonable administrative and security expenses, and other agreed services and support for each transferred individual from the date of arrival until that individual departs Antigua and Barbuda or obtains an independent lawful basis to remain, so that no financial burden arising from the transfer or continued presence of a transferred individual falls upon the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Government of the United States of America expects to fund the International Organization for Migration (IOM), or another competent international organization mutually acceptable to both Governments, to provide and coordinate agreed services for individuals transferred under the MOU. Any participation by IOM or another international organization is subject to its own mandate, policies, risk assessment and a separate arrangement with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and nothing in these Operat-

ing Procedures purports to bind that organization.

The availability, limitation, suspension, withdrawal or expiry of assistance from IOM or another international organization does not alter the financial and operational arrangements required under the preceding paragraphs. If such assistance is unavailable, discontinued, reduced or considered inadequate by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, no further transfer is to occur unless satisfactory alternative arrangements are in place. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda intends to coordinate with the agreed international organization, as appropriate, to facilitate its lawful activities in Antigua and Barbuda.

No first transfer is to occur until any arrangement required between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and IOM, or another agreed international organization, for the provision of agreed post-arrival or assisted voluntary return services has been concluded and is operational, and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is satisfied that the financial and operational arrangements required by this Section are in place.

Section 5: Procedure Prior to Reception

- a) At least ten (10) business days before a proposed transfer, the Government of the United States of America intends to send to the designated authority of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, via the U.S. Embassy in Bridgetown, the names of the persons proposed for transfer together with the information specified below. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda may request additional information or additional time for review.

No person is to be included on a final flight manifest or placed on a flight to Antigua and Barbuda unless and until the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has expressly approved that person in writing. Silence or the absence of a response does not constitute approval.

- b) For every person proposed for transfer, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security intends to provide all relevant information in the possession of, or reasonably obtainable by, the Government of the United States of America that is necessary to permit the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to make an informed decision, including:
 - A comprehensive pre-transfer health assessment, including information concerning any medical, psychiatric, disability-related, pregnancy-related or other condition requiring continuing treatment, specialised care or accommodation;
 - Biometric information and sufficient biographical information to establish identity, including any known aliases;
 - Nationality or nationalities, a copy of the valid, unexpired passport required under Section 2, and available information concerning the person's admissibility to the intended country of return or other onward destination;
 - Information regarding whether the person is accompanied and, if so, by whom;
 - Date of birth and sex;
 - Relevant United States immigration history, including a copy of the final or expedited order of removal and information concerning any judicial or administrative stay or other known legal impediment to

transfer;

- Criminal-record information, or confirmation of the absence of a known criminal record, together with relevant law-enforcement or security information to the extent known or reasonably obtainable;
- Information concerning whether the person has ever sought, asserted, been granted, been denied, or is presently claiming asylum, refugee status, withholding of removal, protection under the Convention Against Torture, or any other protection against return, together with the disposition or current status of each such claim and copies of relevant decisions or records where reasonably obtainable; and confirmation that any available proceedings, review or other legal process in the United States that would prevent the proposed transfer have been exhausted or finally determined.
- The person's occupation, qualifications and skills, where known; and ○ The intended country of return or onward destination, where applicable, the status of arrangements for voluntary return or lawful onward movement, and information reasonably demonstrating that the intended destination will admit or readmit the person and that there is no known legal, diplomatic or practical impediment to such return or onward movement.

Written certification that the person has been informed, in a language he or she understands, that the proposed destination is Antigua and Barbuda, of the intended temporary nature of the arrangement and of the options available

following arrival, and has indicated in writing his or her willingness to be transferred to Antigua and Barbuda. For the avoidance of doubt, willingness to be transferred to Antigua and Barbuda is distinct from any subsequent decision by the individual to request or participate in assisted voluntary return, which is to remain voluntary and subject to the applicable requirements of the organisation providing such assistance.

Section 6: Reception Procedure

The reception of individuals removed is expected to take place at V. C. Bird International Airport in Antigua and Barbuda, where the handover is expected to take place directly between appropriate personnel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the immigration authorities of Antigua and Barbuda. Each individual accepted for transfer is to be admitted only pursuant to the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and under a specifically designated temporary admission status determined by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Before the first transfer takes place, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is to have established the domestic administrative or regulatory arrangements governing that status, including its duration and conditions. Nothing in these Operating Procedures confers upon a transferred individual any right to permanent residence, citizenship, refugee status, employment authorisation or any other continuing status in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Governments understand that the purpose of the arrangement is temporary reception and transit rather than permanent settlement in Antigua and Barbuda. Nothing in these Operating Procedures

constitutes an undertaking by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to grant permanent residence, asylum, refugee status, employment authorization, or any other continuing immigration status. Any application for protection or other status made in Antigua and Barbuda will be dealt with in accordance with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and its applicable international obligations.

The Government of the United States of America, working as appropriate with IOM or another agreed international organization, intends to support and fund arrangements for voluntary return or lawful onward movement of transferred persons, subject to the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and its applicable international obligations. Such support and the financial arrangements required under Section 4 are expected to continue for persons already transferred until their voluntary return or lawful onward movement, or until they acquire an independent lawful basis to remain in Antigua and Barbuda, as applicable. The inability of an international organization to compel return, or the voluntary withdrawal of a transferred person from an assisted voluntary return programme, does not of itself terminate the financial and operational arrangements required under Section 4.

Where an individual transferred under these Operating Procedures is required to depart

Antigua and Barbuda and is not entitled to remain on an independent lawful basis, the Government of the United States of America is expected, consistent with applicable law, to fund and facilitate the individual's prompt return to his or

her country of nationality where such return is lawful and practicable. Where return to the country of nationality cannot lawfully or practicably occur, the Government of the United States of America is expected to fund and facilitate lawful onward placement in an alternative third country or another durable solution acceptable to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Financial, accommodation, subsistence, medical and other agreed support arrangements for the individual are expected to continue until such return, onward placement or other durable solution has been effected, or until the individual obtains an independent lawful basis to remain in Antigua and Barbuda.

Section 7: Suspension and Review

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda may suspend consideration or reception of further transfers immediately if, in its assessment, implementation gives rise to material concerns relating to national security, public order, public health, housing, social services, immigration capacity, fiscal or administrative burden, inadequate funding or support, reduction, suspension or withdrawal of assistance by IOM or another agreed international organization, an accumulation of persons whose voluntary return or lawful onward movement has not occurred within a reasonable period, the duration or cost of supporting transferred persons, a hurricane or other natural disaster, a public-health emergency, or another national emergency or exogenous shock affecting Antigua and Barbuda's capacity to receive transferred persons.

If one or more transferred persons seek asylum, refugee status, protection against refoulement, humanitarian protection, or another status that may result in prolonged residence,

the Government of Antigua and Barbuda may suspend further transfers while the implications are assessed and while appropriate legal, operational and financial arrangements are reviewed.

The Governments intend to review implementation after the first five (5) transfers or six (6) months, whichever occurs first, and at any other time at the request of either Government.

Section 8: Period of Effectiveness and Modification of these Operating Procedures

These Operating Procedures become effective upon signature by both Governments and continue in effect for so long as the MOU remains in effect, unless discontinued earlier in accordance with this Section. Either Government may discontinue these Operating Procedures at any time by written diplomatic notification, without prejudice to any separate provision governing cessation of the MOU. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda may suspend consideration or reception of further transfers with immediate effect in accordance with Section 7. Suspension or discontinuation of these Operating Procedures is not expected to affect the financial and operational arrangements required under Section 4, or support for voluntary return or lawful onward movement, in respect of persons transferred before the effective date of such suspension or discontinuation. These Operating Procedures may be modified only by mutual written decision of the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Signed, in two originals, in the English language.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: ANTI-
GUA AND BARBUDA:**

FIFA President Infantino and PM Browne Agree on Expanded Programme to Develop Football in Antigua and Barbuda



Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gaston Browne and FIFA President Gianni Infantino

Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gaston Browne and FIFA President Gianni Infantino have agreed to strengthen cooperation aimed at transforming the development of football in Antigua and Barbuda, with emphasis on infrastructure, coaching, technical expertise, youth development and international opportunities for the country's footballers.

The agreements emerged from extensive discussions on Saturday involving Prime Minister Browne, President Infantino and members of his FIFA leadership team, together with Antigua and Barbuda Football Association President Ickford Roberts and members of the ABFA executive.

Among the most significant outcomes was FIFA's commitment to assist with the development of a 5,000-seat football stadium, with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda committing to provide land for the facility.

However, both Prime Minister

Browne and President Infantino agreed that physical infrastructure must be accompanied by sustained investment in the technical development of players, coaches and administrators.

Prime Minister Browne specifically identified access to high-quality coaching and technical expertise as critical to raising the standard of the game.

"The most important thing is having technical support to get the type of coaches who can help us to lift our game and help our players to hone their skills," the Prime Minister told the FIFA President.

President Infantino agreed that Antigua and Barbuda possesses signifi-



STATE INSURANCE
 COMPANY LIMITED
 Live in a better State of mind

PROPERTY & CONTENTS INSURANCE

**STORMS DON'T WAIT,
 WHY SHOULD YOU?**

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 www.sicfinancal.com [f](#) [i](#) [x](#)

Local News



tigua and Barbuda's young footballers. President Infantino highlighted the opportunities being created for the country's youth teams through new FIFA competitions and development initiatives.

The Government has previously reaffirmed its commitment to football as an instrument for youth empowerment, national pride and social development, while supporting the ABFA's efforts to improve infrastructure and expand opportunities for young players.

Prime Minister Browne said the Government sees football development as extending well beyond competition.

cant football talent and said FIFA is prepared to provide both infrastructure and technical support.

The FIFA President explained that his objective is to ensure that football opportunities are available to countries regardless of their size and resources. He identified infrastructure, organisational capacity, expertise and management as important ingredients in allowing Caribbean football talent to compete successfully on the international stage.

President Infantino also indicated that while construction of a new stadium will necessarily require time, improvements in technical expertise can begin much sooner.

"To improve the technical expertise, this can be done instantly," President Infantino told the meeting, pointing to FIFA programmes supporting talent development, academies and Football for Schools.

Prime Minister Browne welcomed the commitment and said the Government wants to see a structured programme that provides young Antiguan and Barbudan players with pathways from grassroots football through to national, regional and international competition.



The discussions also recognised the progress already being made by An-

14th Kidney Transplant Successfully Recorded at SLBMC

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has successfully completed its 14th kidney transplant, marking another important milestone for the hospital's kidney transplant program.

The procedure took place on September 25, 2026, when a 49-year-old mother received a kidney from her 26-year-old daughter. Both donor and recipient are doing well and remain under close monitoring by the medical team as they continue their recovery.

The transplant was led by Abdominal Transplant and Urologic Surgeon Dr. Obi Ekwenna, with SLBMC Transplant Nephrologist Dr. Ian Thomas and the wider multidisciplinary team providing care throughout the transplant journey.

For SLBMC, the latest transplant comes at an especially significant time as the hospital looks ahead to 2027, when the kidney transplant program will mark its 10th anniversary.

"Every transplant represents much more than a surgical procedure. It provides an opportunity for a patient and their family to have an improved quality of life," said Dr. Thomas SLBMC Transplant Nephrologist. "As we approach the ten-year milestone, we are grateful for how far we have come, but we also recognize how much more there is to do. There are still patients waiting for the opportunity to receive a new kidney so we would love to see more people consider becoming donors. You don't need to be a relative; any suitable donor with the desire to give can grant someone a new lease on life, and we want to make



that life-saving gift possible for as many people as we can."

Since its inception, the program has provided life-changing treatment for patients with end-stage renal disease while continually building local clinical capacity in Antigua and Barbuda.

The development and continued growth of SLBMC's kidney transplant program has been supported significantly by the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS). Through its investment in the program over the years, MBS has helped strengthen the resources and capacity needed to provide kidney transplantation in Antigua and Barbuda.

A vital, longstanding partner in this effort has also been the Antigua and Barbuda Renal Society. Dedicated to advancing kidney health at every level across the nation,

the Society supports the hospital through active fundraising, public education, and direct assistance for specialized treatment, including financial support toward this latest transplant. Over the years, their support in ways both large and small has helped make specialized renal care more accessible.

SLBMC recognizes and appreciates the important role that both MBS and the Antigua and Barbuda Renal Society have played in helping to build and sustain this life-changing service. The hospital also congratulates the mother and daughter on a successful surgery and acknowledges the dedication and collaboration of the SLBMC team, along with the generosity and courage of the donor and recipient and the support of their families.

Celebrate 45 years with 45% OFF.

Get a
Samsung A17
with a new Postpaid plan



a chance to win weekly
prizes and a **Royalton CHIC**
Antigua getaway for two.



Happy Independence
Antigua and Barbuda.

Sign up today.

Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid while stocks last.
Promotion period September 28 to October 31

Royalton
CHIC Antigua

FLOW



CIBC

Antigua

Walk for the Cure

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Venue: West Indies Oil Sports Field – Friars Hill Road
(next to the Friars Hill service station)

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Price: Adults \$50, Kids \$25 (Groups of 10 or more \$40)

Package includes: T-shirt and light refreshments



Register at Old Parham Road branch, online by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

Contact Jesseca Ormond 484-5119, Natasha Charles 484-5137 or Khadijah James 484-5064

All proceeds to be donated to Breast Friends & Oncology department at Sir Lester Bird Medical.



**SIR LESTER BIRD
MEDICAL CENTRE**

CIBC



Post your photos to social media with **#WFTCAntigua**

The CIBC logo is a trademark of CIBC, used under license.

Foreign Minister Greene leads packed schedule of diplomatic engagements at the United Nations

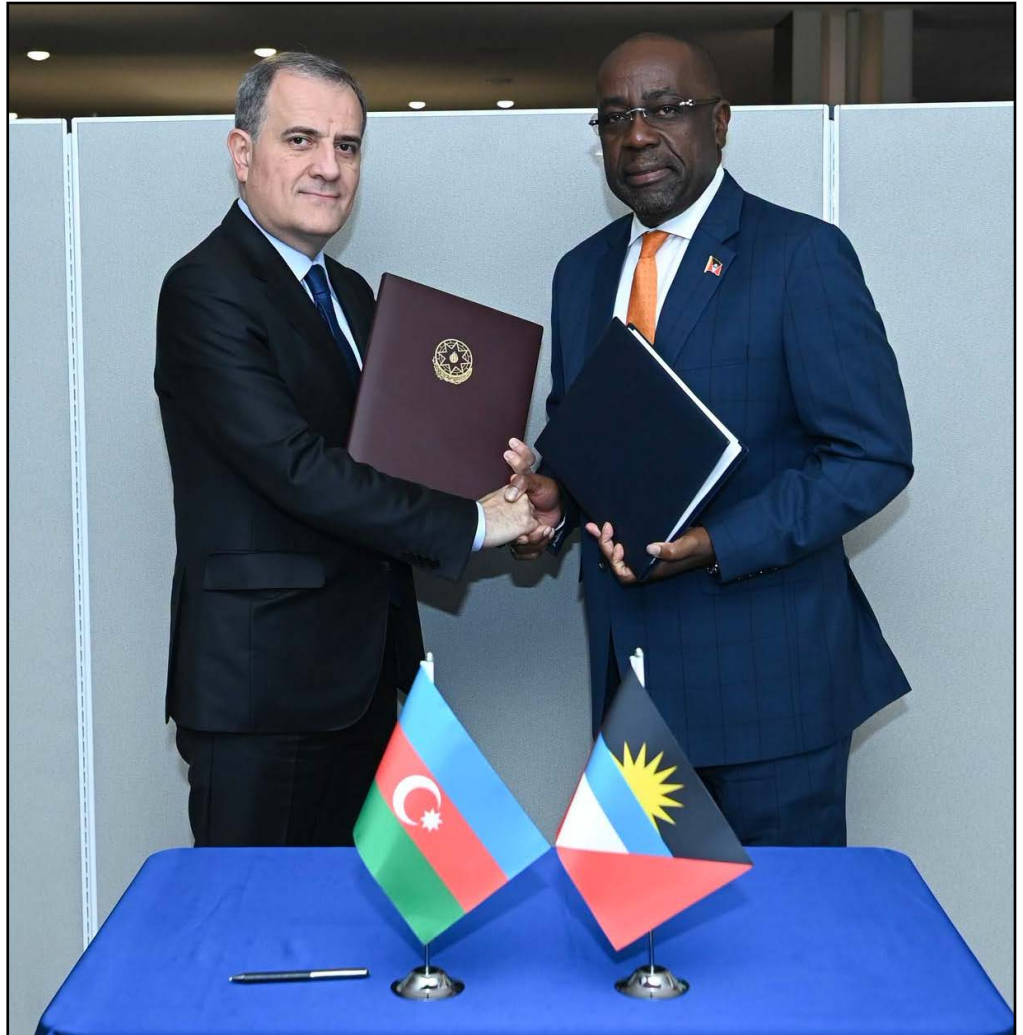
Antigua and Barbuda has deepened its diplomatic relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan, entering into a visa waiver agreement with the Eastern European country. It was a major highlight of a week of productive engagements led by Minister of Foreign Affairs E.P Chet Greene at the United Nations.

The agreement was formalized during a brief signing ceremony between Minister Greene and his Azerbaijani counterpart, Jeyhun Bayramov on the sideline of the 81st United Nations General Assembly. It means that eligible citizens from Antigua and Barbuda and Azerbaijan can travel between their two countries without the usual requirement of obtaining a visa.

This was only one in a series of bilateral engagements on a packed agenda for Minister Greene as he met with some of Antigua and Barbuda's key diplomatic partners, engaging them on matters of mutual interests between their countries.

High on his agenda was Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and the country's preparations for hosting the historic gathering was a major area of discussion when Minister Greene met with the UK's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Chris Elmore.

Minister Greene also held bilateral discussions with a number of African countries to discuss matters on which they were aligned and as part of Antigua and Barbuda's support for the candidacy of Maria Espinosa for the post of General Secretary of the United Nations. Espinosa was introduced to the



Foreign minister Chet Greene and his Azerbaijani counterpart, Jeyhun Bayramov

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Samuel Ablakwa and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for

Foreign Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi during separate engagements with the representatives of the two African countries.

Minister Greene also made time to hold bilateral discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Vivian Balakrishnan to Antigua and Barbuda's foreign policy position

on a range of matters and introduce the Secretary General candidate.

In addition, Minister Greene joined his head of delegation, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne for bilateral discussions with the Foreign Affairs Minister of the United Arab Emirates UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, advancing a number of major trade and economic opportunities for the twin island nation.



268 736 7165

Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm



Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

Breakfast served from 7:30am

Games Night - COMING SOON!

Freeland Tells Monaco Audience Antigua's Yachting Appeal Is Rooted in Its People and Heritage



Antigua and Barbuda is strengthening its place in the global yachting market while working to preserve the culture and natural beauty that make the destination special, Minister of State for Tourism Michael Freeland said during an interview in Monaco.

Freeland spoke with Shari Liu at the SuperYachts.com stand while attending the Monaco Yacht Show, held September 23–26. His visit formed part of efforts to build relationships with yacht owners, captains and charter professionals, attract marine investment and bring more charter business to Antigua and Barbuda.

Discussing the country's tourism performance, Freeland pointed to stronger airlift, destination marketing and growing interest in experiences beyond its beaches. Yachting, cuisine, culture and wellness, he said, all give visitors reasons to explore more of the islands.

He placed particular emphasis on Antigua's expanded sailing calendar. The addition of the Antigua Racing Cup alongside Antigua Sailing Week and the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta gives different types of vessels, crews and enthusiasts more opportunities to visit. A longer, busier season can also benefit marinas, hotels, restaurants, transport operators and other local businesses.

For Freeland, that appeal rests on a

mentary experiences, he explained. Antigua has an established mix of sailing, heritage, entertainment and accommodation, while Barbuda's appeal lies in its seclusion, natural beauty and sense of community. As luxury development advances in Barbuda, Freeland said, those defining features should be protected.

Asked what returning superyacht guests could discover, he pointed to improved infrastructure, new accommodation, a broader events calendar and experiences on land as well as at sea. Adding Barbuda to an itinerary offers another way to experience the destination.

Freeland said Antigua and Barbuda's presence at Monaco also allows the



history extending well beyond modern tourism promotion. English Harbour and Nelson's Dockyard remain central to Antigua's maritime identity and help distinguish the country in the international yachting market.

The minister also addressed investment across both islands. He said new developments should create opportunities for residents while respecting the environment, local communities and the qualities visitors come to experience.

Antigua and Barbuda offer comple-

country to do something advertising alone cannot: introduce people directly to its music, food, hospitality and people. Those personal connections matter in an industry where relationships often shape travel and charter decisions.

Through all the growth, the quality he most wants the destination to retain is its authenticity. Luxury offerings can expand, he said, but the warmth of the people and the character of both islands must remain at the centre of the visitor experience.

The AT&LU Convenes Its 87th Delegates Conference



Antigua and Barbuda's oldest industrial trade union, the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) moves into Day2 of its 87th annual delegates conference today (Monday).

The conference is being convened under the theme: 'Developing Stronger Workers, Stronger Future'. It is being held at the People's Place on Nugent Avenue as structural repair work on the AT&LU headquarters at 46 North Street is currently underway.

In his remarks, President Bernard de Nully underscored the importance of developing workers in today's labour environment.

"Development of a worker is an ongoing process geared towards the improvement of a skillsets, the acquisition of knowledge and the approach to steadily grow his/her career to benefit both himself/herself and his/her family.

"Additionally, our theme, developing stronger workers, stronger future aligns holistically with the AT&LU's mission that clearly states, the Union is here to ensure that the rights of workers, enshrined in law and enabled through collective bargaining, are duly

and fully protected within an economic system," he stated.

De Nully said the AT&LU's commitment to workers goes beyond idle talk to providing scholarships so that workers can acquire certification and thus a pathway to higher salaries and better benefits.

"We have empowered our membership through educational opportunities through the AT&LU Scholarship Offer where 10 workers and a cohort of Shop Stewards are benefiting each and every semester at the University of West Indies Global Campus pursuing Life-long Learning with Continued Professional Education. There is over a 90% passing rate and I wish to congratulate them all," de Nully remarked.

In the feature address, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Creative Industries, Amb. Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, recalled his early days when he was introduced to the labour movement by his father and the lessons he learnt from those experiences.

Reflecting on the recent successes of the Falcons Cricket team, Dr Pilgrim noted that success does not come by accident; rather, it requires prepara-

tion, teamwork, discipline and confidence.

"Success requires an understanding that individual talent becomes more powerful when organised around a common purpose. That principle applies on the cricket field. It applies in the workplace. And it applies in nation-building. Strong individuals matter. But organised people can transform institutions," he indicated.

In keeping with the theme, Dr. Pilgrim made the case not only for the union to develop its younger members for leadership roles, but the union must be prepared to develop workers for life.

"That is why I believe the modern trade union must develop the whole worker—economically, technologically, socially, intellectually and civically. A union must not only defend the worker at work. It must help develop the worker for life.

"One practical way of doing this is to restore the Workers' Voice. Those who remember the newspaper know it did more than report union business. It informed, educated, challenged and sometimes provoked," he declared.

We Are Because They Were": Senator O'Donoghue Delivers Stirring Message at AT&LU Conference

Senator Angelica O'Donoghue's call for renewed solidarity, worker development and a deeper appreciation of the historic relationship between the Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) received strong commendations at the Union's 87th Annual Delegates' Conference on Sunday.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the ABLP under the conference theme, **"Developing Stronger Workers, Stronger Future,"** Senator O'Donoghue centered her address around the African philosophy of **Ubuntu** - **"I am because we are"**- using it to underscore the shared history and enduring bond between the Labour movement, the Union and the Party.

Her remarks drew commendations from AT&LU President Bernard de Nully, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel "Max" Hurst, as well as delegates and other attendees of the conference.

One of the central messages of the address was that the Labour Party's history cannot be separated from that of the trade union movement.

"We are because you were. The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is, because the Antigua Trades and Labour Union was," Senator O'Donoghue told delegates.

She described the Union as not merely part of Labour's history, but **"the root of Labour's history,"** while reflecting on the journey from 46 North Street and Emancipation House to The People's Place and the generations of workers who organized to advance better wages, working conditions and political



representation.

While paying homage to that foundation, Senator O'Donoghue stressed that preserving the Labour movement also requires preparing workers for a rapidly changing future.

She pointed to artificial intelligence, automation, the digital economy, cybersecurity and climate change as forces reshaping the modern workplace, arguing that trade unions must increasingly complement their traditional role of defending workers' rights with education, training and skills development.

In that regard, she congratulated President de Nully and the Union's Executive on its scholarship and education initiatives, including the presentation of certificates from the UWI Global Campus during the conference.

"Representation protects where you are. Development expands where you can go," she said, encouraging the Union to further

pursue opportunities in technical and vocational certification, digital skills, artificial intelligence, management, entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

Senator O'Donoghue also issued a challenge to the Labour movement to ensure that modernization does not result in the loss of its history and founding principles.

"Modernization must never become amnesia," she declared, urging older generations to teach young people about the struggles that produced many of the rights workers enjoy today, while simultaneously creating space for a new generation to lead.

Looking ahead to the Union's centenary in 2039, Senator O'Donoghue challenged delegates to consider what future workers would say about the stewardship of the present generation, particularly whether it prepared workers for change, invested in education, opened opportunities for women and young people, strengthened collective bargaining and modernized while preserving the movement's core values.

She closed by returning to the message of Ubuntu and the responsibility each generation carries to the next.

"From 46 North Street to The People's Place. From 1939 to 2026. From the workers who first organized, to the young worker holding a university certificate today, the thread remains unbroken," she said.

"I am because we are. We are because they were. And those who come after us will be, because of what we choose to do today."

AnuBlue Marks Record Year for Coral Restoration in Antigua and Barbuda



Previously: **Elkhorn Marine Conservancy**



AnuBlue has marked its most successful year of coral restoration since its establishment in 2021, planting more than 5,800 nursery-grown corals across reefs around Antigua. This represents approximately 2.3 acres of restored reef — equivalent to nearly two American football fields.

With an 84% survival rate recorded among planted corals at restoration sites, the milestone reflects not only the growing scale of AnuBlue's work,

but the continued success of its approach to rebuilding coral populations.

As wild coral populations decline worldwide, active restoration has become an increasingly important strategy for preserving existing populations and rebuilding degraded reefs. By growing and planting thousands of corals, AnuBlue is helping give Antigua and Barbuda's reefs a stronger future.

AnuBlue operates Antigua and Bar-

buda's largest active coral restoration programme, with four coral nurseries and five restoration sites across Cades Reef and the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA), two important reef areas for marine life and coastal communities. From these sites, AnuBlue grows and plants corals across multiple reefs around Antigua, allowing restoration efforts to take place at a meaningful scale. Behind every coral planted is a team of people making the work possible. The people behind the programme are as varied as the reefs themselves, bringing together marine scientists, fishermen, divers and volunteers, all sharing a commitment to seeing Antigua's coastline thrive.

But successful restoration is about more than the number of corals planted. AnuBlue's restoration programme is built around both resilience and diversity, selecting fragments from parent colonies that are already showing an ability to withstand pressures such as rising ocean temperatures and disease.

Different genetic individuals of the same species are then planted close together, creating greater opportunities for natural reproduction and helping build larger, more genetically diverse coral populations. The programme also grows a varied collection of 15 reef-building species, including five critically endangered species, each playing a vital role on the reef. By combining resilient genetics with a diversity of coral species, AnuBlue is working to build healthier, stronger reefs that are better equipped for the future.

Through continued restoration, monitoring and research, AnuBlue is working to rebuild reefs that can support marine life, protect coastlines and remain an important part of Antigua and Barbuda's natural heritage for generations to come.

Tevin Willock Sentenced to Prison for Ammunition Possession

Tevin Willock of Grays Farm has been sentenced to ten months and twenty days in prison after pleading guilty to possession of ammunition.

Willock appeared before the Chief Magistrate at the St. John's Magistrates' Court on Friday, September 25, charged with possession of twelve rounds of 9mm ammunition.

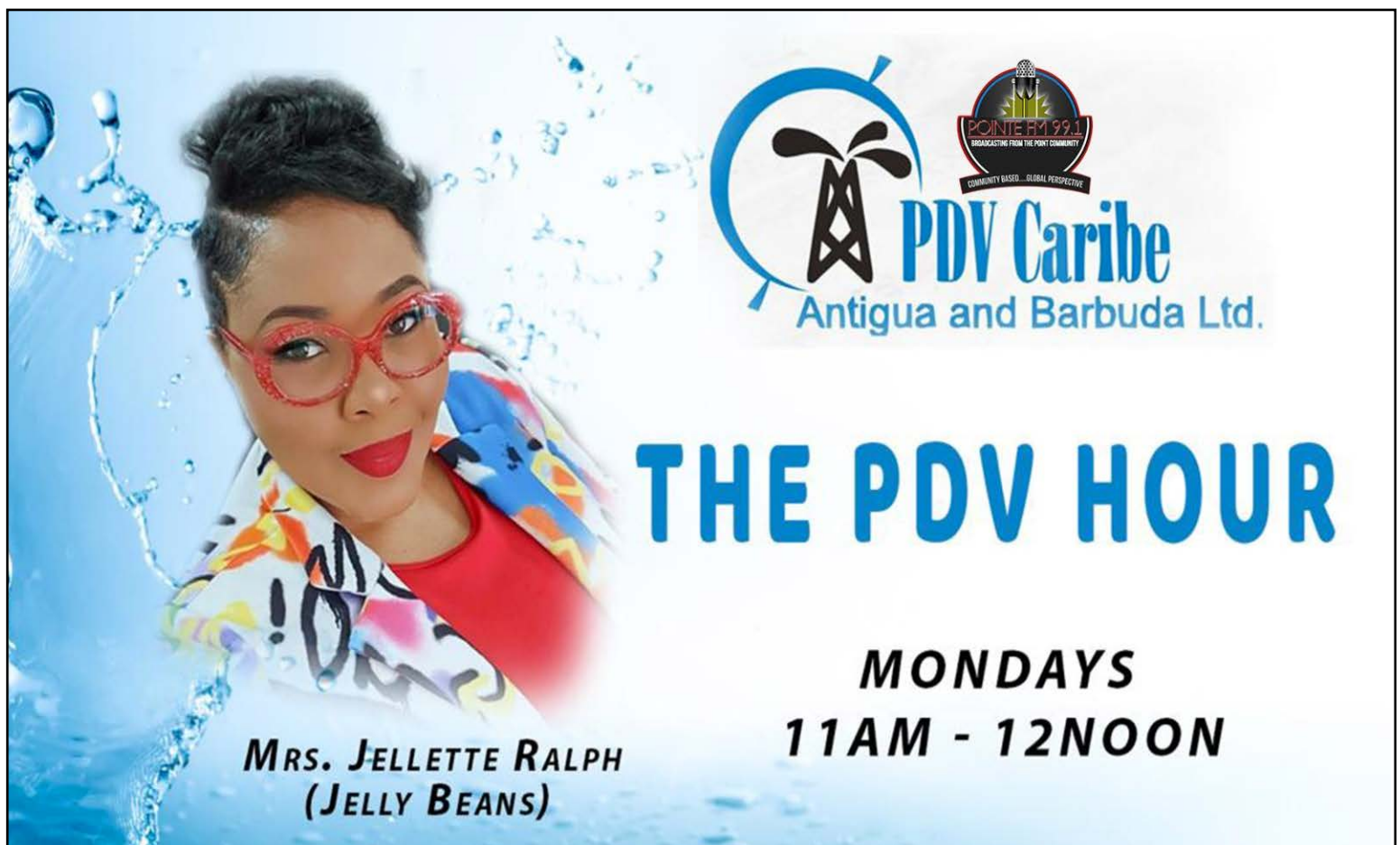
He pleaded guilty to the offence and was sentenced to ten months and twenty days' imprisonment, with the court taking the applicable sen-



tencing guidelines into consideration.

The charge arose from an incident at Perry Bay on September 4, 2026, which resulted in Willock being arrested and subsequently charged by the police.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues its efforts to remove illegal firearms and ammunition from the streets and reminds the public that the unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition is a criminal offence.



PDV Caribe
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**



the
GARD
center



Beginners Beekeeping



**ENROLL
NOW**

Duration: 6 weeks

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Time: 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Location: GARD Center

Registration Fee: \$150 (non-refundable)

Course Fee: \$850

The first 20 registrants who pay the registration fee will receive a full tuition scholarship.

SPACES ARE LIMITED!

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

www.gardc.org

or visit us

Mercers Creek

East of Pares Village

**St. Peter's
Antigua**

START DATE: 20TH OCTOBER 2026

**INVEST IN YOURSELF.
CHANGE YOUR FUTURE.**



ENROLL. LEARN. SUCCEED.



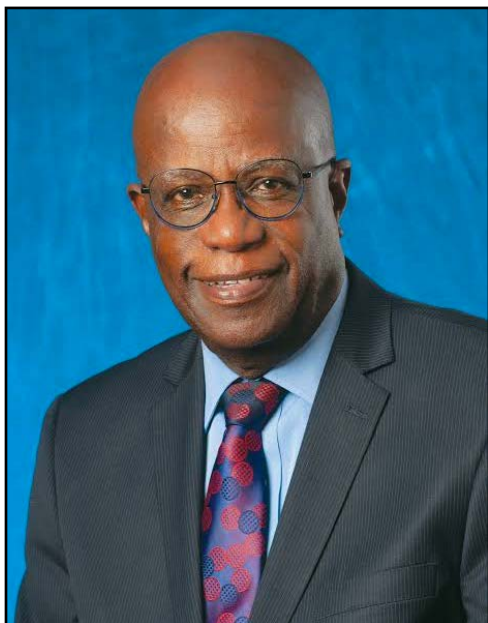
Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center

(268) 727-4121

admin@gardc.org

gardc_anu

Sparrow gone, for real this time



By Julian Rogers

The Mighty Sparrow gone. For real this time.

Decades ago, when rumour spread across the region that he had died, Sparrow answered the only way a true calypsonian could, with a calypso of his own announcing the news. Those lines became classic and slipped straight into our maco lexicon, because we in the Caribbean share news, true or rumour, far faster than any WhatsApp group chat.

On Sunday, 27 September, the news was real. Slinger Francisco died in New York, aged 91, after a brief illness and with his loved ones around him. Within hours, WhatsApp and Facebook were flooding with tributes, questions, memories and personal playlists. That is only the beginning.

Grenada will reclaim him, for it was in Grand Roy that the little bird first took flight. Trinis will say he is ours, and with good reason, for it was Trinidad that raised him and crowned him Calypso Monarch eight times and Road March king on eight occasions. And the rest of the Caribbean, at home and abroad, will claim him too. That tug of war is itself the tribute. It measures the impact one man had on all of us over seven decades, more than 500



The calypso king has left the stage, but kaiso, and the fight against diabetes, still need us

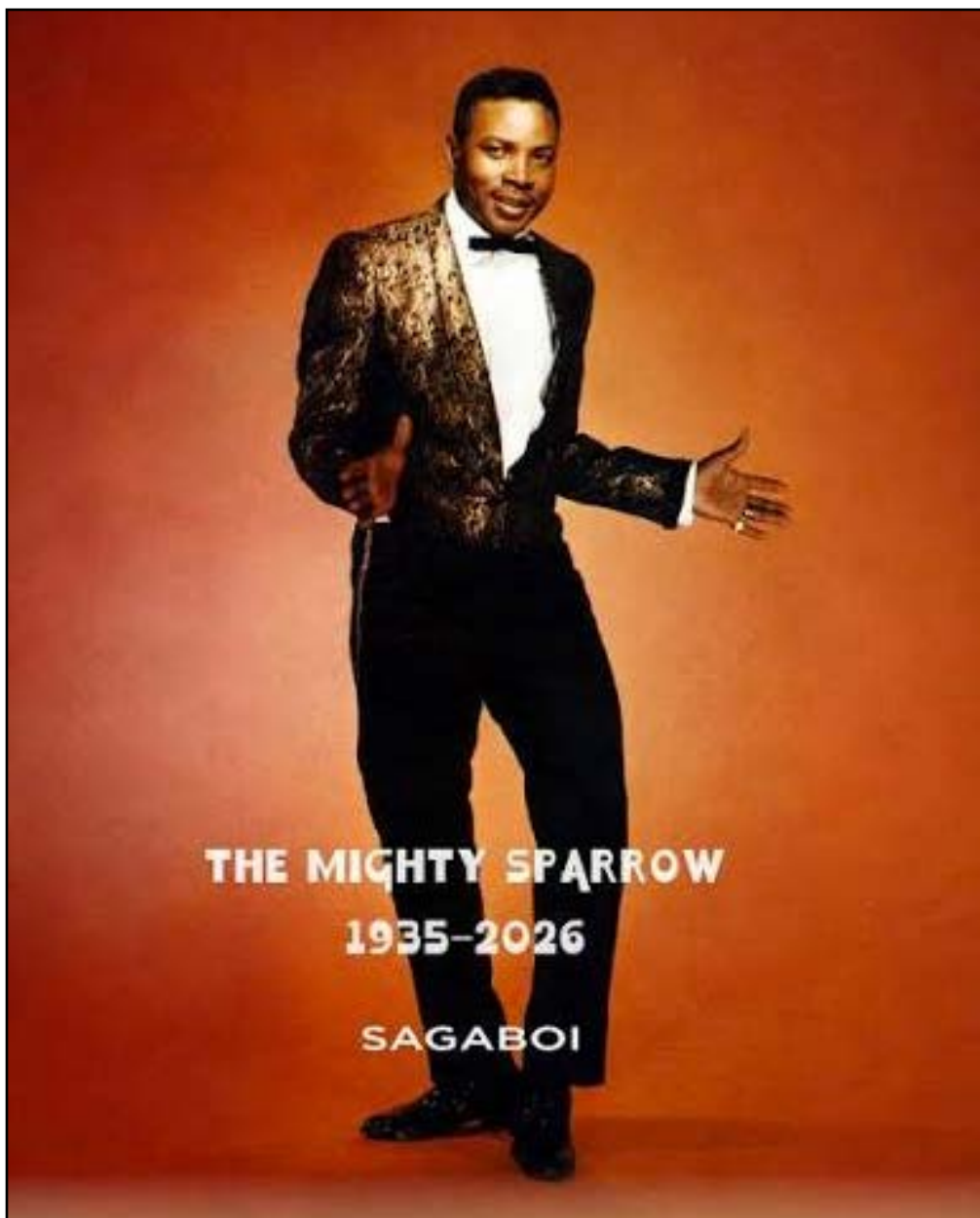
songs and more than 70 albums.

It also tell we something we have been letting slip. Sparrow represents a value that has been diminished over the years, as appreciation for the art-form he mastered has waned. Kaiso was our newspaper, our parliament and our confessional set to music, and Sparrow was its editor in chief. He sang about Carnival and cricket, federation and foolishness, love and money, human rights and capitalism gone mad. When the region needed talking about itself, Sparrow told it, and he

made us dance while he did it.

I did not inherit my family's musical talents. The only instrument I ever learned to play was the turntable. But over a career in media I interviewed Sparrow several times and watched him perform on more stages across the Caribbean than I can count. I saw his ups, and I saw his downs too, including his long and persistent fight with diabetes.

When he turned 90, my colleague Lillian Ceasar of St Kitts and Florida insisted that such a landmark should



not go unnoticed or uncelebrated. So I chronicled that fight in a song for his birthday. We hoped then that our effort would bring greater attention to the diabetes that has become part of so many lives in our region.

That hope has not changed. I want this subject to get the attention it deserves, not because it had such an impact on the Mighty Sparrow, but because it is a cause we should never abandon. Every family in this region knows the

toll. Too many of us know it by name.

With the help of AI tools, I have now composed one more for him. Not a lament, but a final bulletin, telling his life through the titles he gave us, from Jean and Dinah and Carnival Boycott to Federation, Congo Man, Crown Heights Justice and Barack De Magnificent. It imagines the man who kept the region informed for seven decades signing off the way a news anchor would.

Its chorus says what so many of us are feeling at this time:

*Sparrow gone, but never forgotten!
The Bird may fly away,
But every word he leave behind
Still singing today!*

The full song is published at caribbeanbridges.substack.com.

As we prepare our salutes to The Birdie, Dr Sparrow, Slinger Francisco, as we heap praise on his legacy and play his music loud, remember this. There are many exemplars of the kaiso artform still with us, still writing, still singing, still standing in tents that grow emptier every season. They deserve our support now, while they can hear it.

Leh we us not abandon them. And let us not wait for the rumour, or the real news, to tell them so.

Julian Rogers is the founder and publisher of Caribbean Bridges.

Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers . julian@caribbeanbridges.com

#MightySparrow #SlingerFrancisco
#Kaiso #Calypso #CaribbeanCulture
#DiabetesAwareness



ACB
CARIBBEAN

Home Advantage

MORTGAGES DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU



Apply today.



**50% off
legal fees**



**100%
Financing**






CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
268 Inc

When the Commonwealth Comes to Our Shore



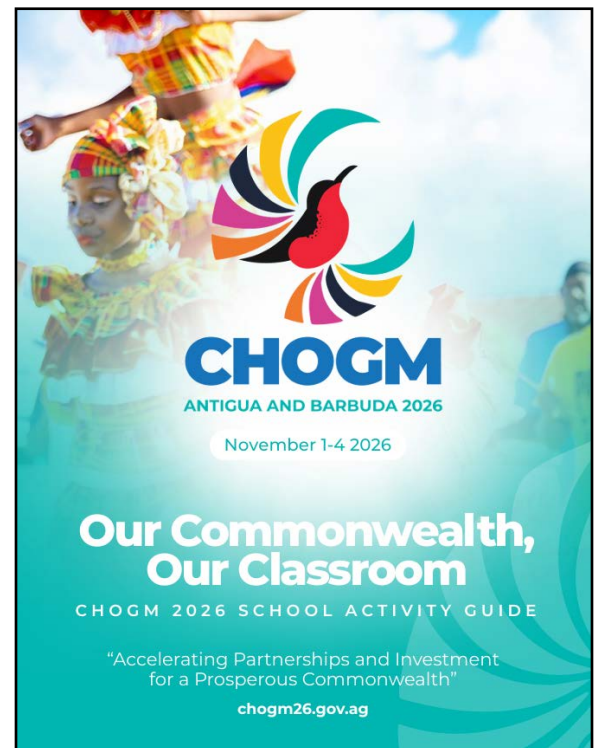
Fifty-six nations are coming to shore,
But what will remain when they walk through the door?
When motorcades leave and the flags disappear,
What changes for those who are living right here?

CHOGM is coming, the whole world may see
Our beautiful islands surrounded by sea.
But behind every beach and each postcard-blue view
Are climate realities our people live through.

The hotter the season, the longer the drought,
The farmer looks upward, still trying it out.
The household turns taps hoping water will run,
While oceans grow warmer beneath Caribbean sun.

So climate discussions cannot remain
A speech in a ballroom, a graph or campaign.
For countries like ours, this debate is our life —
Our homes, our economy, struggle and strife.

A storm does not ask what our GDP said,
It tears through a roof hanging over a bed.



The sea does not pause at a political line;
It rises regardless of yours or of mine.

And that is why CHOGM can matter right here:
It brings global attention remarkably near.

The 2026 agenda includes climate resilience among the
shared priorities Commonwealth countries will discuss,

alongside trade, innovation, equality and sustainable de-
velopment.

But meetings mean little if action is slow;
The measure is what happens after they go.

Can partnerships help us put solar on roofs?

Can climate investment deliver the proof?
 Can schools become stronger when hurricanes blow?
 Can farmers gain systems that help crops to grow?

Can vulnerable homes be made safer today?
 Can recycling become just our normal way?
 Can businesses rethink what they purchase and waste?
 Can development happen with purpose, not haste?

Can young people enter green careers and succeed?
 Can funding reach projects responding to need?
 Can islands gain finance on fairer terms too,
 Instead of more debt for the damage we rue?

These are the questions our citizens bring,
 Because climate affects almost everything.



And citizens too have a role they can play;
 The climate solution begins every day.

It starts when we separate bottles and cans,
 When businesses build environmental plans.
 When someone plants trees, when communities clean,
 When purchasing choices become more green.

But personal action cannot carry the fight
 Unless global systems become fairer and right.
 A small island footprint can still face the cost
 Of coastlines damaged and livelihoods lost.

So responsibility must also be shared
 By countries and industries able and prepared.
 The Commonwealth People's Forum will place climate
 and environmental justice among its central discussions,
 creating a space where civil society and citizens can con-

tribute perspectives to the wider CHOGM process.

So speak through your school, through your group, through
 your art.

Use facts and experience; let stories take part.

Ask what is promised. Ask where it will lead.

Ask whether the outcome responds to our need.

Because being a host means much more than display;

It means choosing the legacy left the next day.

Let visitors remember our culture and sand,

But also the people protecting this land.

Let leaders see islands determined to prove

That small does not mean we are frightened to move.

And when all the meetings and ceremonies end,

May partnerships formed have the courage to extend

From conference tables to village and street,

To farmers and families feeling the heat.

For prosperity cannot be only a phrase,

Printed on banners for four November days.

Let prosperity mean that our children can grow

On islands still thriving wherever they go.

Let progress mean communities stronger than before,

More prepared for the storms approaching our shore.

Fifty-six nations may gather as one,

But climate work will not finish when CHOGM is done.

So when November has passed and the headlines are
 through,

There is one final question for me and for you:

Did we simply host history and proudly applaud,

Or use that brief moment to push something broad?

For the greatest success will not be what they saw.

It will be what we changed.

What we protected.

What we demanded.

And what we left stronger than it was before.



ANTIGUA
Carnival

THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

Legendary **70**

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027



ANTIGUA CARNIVAL



@ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL



ABAPD
Antigua & Barbuda Association Of Persons
With Disabilities
— Est. 1995 —

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ASSOCIATION OF
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES

ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Share Hope...
Change Lives!

OCTOBER 3RD – DECEMBER 19TH

*"Whoever is generous to the poor
lends to the Lord, and He will repay
him for his deed."*
— Proverbs 19:17

Help us assemble food packages for
PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITY
in Antigua & Barbuda.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

-  DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS
-  GIVE TOILETRIES & ESSENTIALS
-  SPONSOR A FOOD PACKAGE
-  VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Every Little Bit Helps!

DROP OFF AT

 VARIOUS
SUPERMARKETS
AROUND
ANTIGUA &
BARBUDA 

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY!** 

CONTACT US:

-  **WENDY VALENTINE
(TREASURER)
780-2974**
-  **BERNARD WARNER
(PRESIDENT)
781-1228**
-  **ABAPD OFFICE
562-9575**

BE KIND. BE GENEROUS. BE THE REASON SOMEONE SMILES TODAY!
Together, We Can Build A Stronger, More Caring Community! ♥



Regional News



Police appeal for tips after mass shooting kills 4 in SVG



The community of Green Hill in central Kingstown was plunged into shock on Friday night, September 25, 2026, after a violent shooting left four people dead and four others wounded.

According to St Vincent police, gunshots erupted in Green Hill just before 10:30 p.m. Upon arriving at the scene, responding officers discovered a gruesome sight spread across the public road and surrounding properties:

Two deceased individuals were lying on the public road.

One deceased female was found inside a vehicle parked on the road.

One deceased individual was discovered on an adjacent piece of land.

All four victims sustained apparent gunshot wounds. Four additional victims were rushed to the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital for emergency medical treatment. Officials confirmed that two of the injured were treated and discharged, while two remain hos-

pitalized under police supervision.

Adding to the overnight violence, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Brenton Smith disclosed that a separate shooting occurred at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, in the Fair Hall area, leaving a young man injured.

Police cautioned the public against speculating on whether the Green Hill massacre and the Hall shooting are connected, noting that investiga-

tors are working to establish the facts based strictly on physical evidence.

As of the press conference, police confirmed that no arrests have been made in connection with the Green Hill shooting. Authorities have issued an urgent appeal to anyone with CCTV footage, photographs, video recordings, or tips to contact police hotlines at 457-1211, 999, or 911. (St Vincent Times)

Generators for Rent

One 150KVA 3phase Generator with Out Door Enclosure.

One 50KVA Single Generator with Out Door Enclosure.

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Jamaica calls for reform of multilateral system, stronger climate and security cooperation

Jamaica has called for sweeping reforms of the international system, warning that the shortcomings of multilateralism cannot be addressed by abandoning it at a time when small states are confronting climate shocks, security threats and growing economic pressures.

Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, addressing the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, said wars, geopolitical tensions, climate change and rapidly developing technologies were testing international cooperation at a time when it was most needed.

Johnson Smith addressed the General Assembly on Saturday.

“For small states like ours, a rules-based international order is not an abstract diplomatic preference; it is fundamental to our sovereignty, our security and our development,” Johnson Smith said.

“But neither can we safeguard multilateralism simply by defending it. We must reform it,” she added.

The foreign minister said the system “must become more representative, more accountable, more efficient” and more responsive to the people it was established to serve. She pointed to Jamaica’s role in efforts to reform the United Nations, including work on the UN80 Initiative’s review of mandate implementation.

“Our objective is straightforward: a United Nations that spends less time sustaining process for its own sake, and more time fulfilling its purpose,” she said. She also reaffirmed Jamaica’s support for Guyanese diplomat Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett to become the next UN Secretary-General, saying small states had long demonstrated their ability to build consensus and resolve international challenges.



“We learn very early that influence does not depend only on size or power,” Johnson Smith said. “It can also come from credibility, dialogue, principle and the capacity to bring people together.”

The minister devoted a significant part of her address to the impact of Hurricane Melissa, which struck Jamaica on October 28 last year, saying damage and losses were estimated at 56.7 per cent of gross domestic product.

“Think about that,” she said. “More than half the value of an entire year of national economic output damaged or lost through a single event.” Johnson Smith said the experience underscored what she described as a fundamental inequity confronting Small Island Developing States. “We can do everything right ... and yet, one hurricane can still erase decades of progress”.

She said Jamaica was determined not simply to recover, but to rebuild with greater resilience through the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority.

“Our resilience must not be measured by how much suffering we can withstand; it must be measured by how well we prepare, how quickly we recover, how intelligently we adapt —

and whether we emerge stronger. We are not simply replacing what Melissa destroyed. We are building the Jamaica that must withstand the storms of tomorrow”.

The foreign minister called for climate finance to become more accessible, affordable and predictable and renewed Jamaica’s argument that per capita income alone should not determine a country’s eligibility for concessional financing.

“Income alone does not and cannot measure vulnerability,” she insisted. “We do not ask to be relieved of responsibility; we ask for an international system that gives responsible countries the space to succeed.”

Johnson Smith also warned against allowing artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies to deepen inequalities between developed and developing countries.

“Indeed, they can be an equalising force for the world,” she said of digital technologies. “We must, therefore, not allow AI to deepen old inequalities and create an entirely new global divide.”

She said developing countries needed greater investment in infrastructure, skills and capacity, alongside

Regional News



governance frameworks protecting privacy, intellectual property and data integrity.

On regional security, Johnson Smith renewed Jamaica's call for a coordinated international response to transnational criminal gangs.

She recalled Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness' call at last year's General Assembly for a "global war on gangs", saying criminal networks, firearms and illicit financing routinely cross national borders.

"Criminal money crosses borders; criminal networks exploit technology and operate across borders. "Our response must, therefore, also cross borders," she said.

Johnson Smith also called for stronger international cooperation in firearms tracing and interdiction, intelligence-sharing, financial investigations and law-enforcement capacity building.

She said Jamaica had made progress in reducing violent crime but acknowledged that more work remained.

"Our objective is not merely fewer crimes; it is a durable ecosystem of peace in which every Jamaican can feel safe, raise a family, do business and fulfil his or her potential and retire in paradise," she said.

Turning to Haiti, Johnson Smith called for sustained international support for the Gang Suppression Force, the Haitian National Police and the country's armed forces. She also urged the UN Security Council to renew the force's mandate.

"We are at a crossroads; we can lose gains, or we can build on progress made," she remarked. Continuing, she said, "The international community must send an unequivocal message: armed gangs cannot be allowed to determine Haiti's future nor that of the region."

Johnson Smith said improved security must create the conditions for humanitarian assistance, economic recovery, political stability and "cred-

ible elections, led and owned by the Haitian people."

On Cuba, she said Jamaica continued to favour dialogue and constructive engagement and supported greater integration of the country into the international economic system.

"The suffering of the Cuban people is of deep concern," Johnson Smith said, calling for policies that create pathways for progress rather than continuing isolation under the US embargo.

The minister also reaffirmed Jamaica's support for reparatory justice, describing it as involving "truth, acknowledgement, justice, repair, compensation, development and reconciliation".

She said Jamaica had supported a Ghana-led resolution earlier this year and had delivered a petition to Buckingham Palace raising questions concerning reparations.

Johnson Smith ended by returning to the need for UN reform, saying Jamaica supports revitalising the General Assembly, meaningful reform of the

Security Council and greater accountability and efficiency throughout the UN system.

"Reform is not an act of disloyalty to this institution," she said. "Reform is how we preserve it."

She said multilateralism ultimately had to produce tangible results for ordinary people.

"For a small state like Jamaica, its value is felt when our people are safer; when opportunity is expanded; when vulnerability does not become a barrier to development; when countries that have acted responsibly are not penalised for shocks they did not create; and when the voice of a small nation carries the same dignity as that of a large one."

"That is why Jamaica remains committed to this institution — not because it is perfect, but because we are grateful for what it has achieved and we believe in what it can become," said Johnson Smith. (CMC)

FOR SALE

One 30KVA open set Generator with 200amp Automatic Transfer Switch. \$40,000.00ec.

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

GENERATOR RENTALS

GENERATORS FOR RENT

**150KVA 3Phase 3wire.120/240v.
50KVA 3Phase 3wire 120/240v.**

CONTACT:

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Probe into plot to kill Govt minister



Former government minister Foster Cummings has disclosed that 18 heavily armed police officers showed up at one of his properties as part of an investigation into an alleged conspiracy to murder a government minister.

Cummings made the disclosure in the Senate on Wednesday night during his contribution to the debate on the Special Operations Bill, 2026, as he raised concerns about expanding the powers available to law enforcement.

The former People's National Movement (PNM) Minister of Youth Development and National Service said a document had also been prepared on his "activities" on a police letterhead and labelled as "intelligence".

He added: "And when those documents are usually prepared, Mr President, I wouldn't say much about it because it's attracting the attention of the judiciary. When that document was prepared, a document that

is usually confidential was leaked to the media."

Cummings said he was sitting in Parliament when he received a message informing him that police officers were at a property he owned.

He said a government member also alerted him to the police presence.

"I was in this Parliament, Mr President, not too long ago, when I received a message on my phone that there was police at the premises that I own. I received it on my phone here. And at the same moment I received it, a colleague on the other side was saying to me across the floor, there's police at your building. I said, they probably want to take a drink. He said, no, no, no. They're there for something else."

Cummings continued: "A maxi-taxi of 18 heavily armed policemen operating on intelligence went before a master of the court, got a warrant for conspiracy to commit murder. Because a high official in the Government, not entitled to a particular

type of security, wanting that security, put forward a position that caused the police to take that action."

Without naming the individual, Cummings said a Government minister had claimed there was a conspiracy to murder him. He acknowledged that police subsequently showed up at one of his properties in furtherance of the investigation.

He said: "A minister of Government claimed that there was a conspiracy to murder him, which caused the police to take that information and show up at one of my properties in furtherance of that investigation. When we were under the last state of emergency, that very minister was up and down this country. It was reported in the papers saying a former minister wants to take me out; and I want to know why that minister is still walking up and down freely."

Cummings used the incident to question the level of power being given to law enforcement authorities under the Special Operations legislation and what safeguards would exist for ordinary citizens.

"That is the level of power that exists that we are saying should be expanded. I am in this House with the ability to do this thing, give this report to the House and to the country. What of the citizen who is unable to do so? What of the citizen who does not have access to speak on matters if they are so affected by the actions of the State?"

The bill was passed in both the Lower and Upper House.

In July 2026, the Sunday Express exclusively reported that the security detail of Public Utilities Minister Barry Padarath had been increased after a man described as a gangster allegedly told police that a former

Regional News



government minister had offered him \$250,000 to murder Padarath.

The former minister was not named.

Padarath's security detail was subsequently increased to include protection from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) Special Branch.

The man, who was in police custody at the time on an unrelated matter, provided a statement dated December 4, 2025, to officers at the Carenage Police Station in which he detailed an alleged meeting with the former minister concerning the purported hit.

The Sunday Express obtained excerpts from the statement in which the man claimed that sometime in November 2025, he went to McBean, where he met a relative and asked about obtaining a lucrative job opportunity.

According to the statement, the relative took him to a club owned by a former government minister, whom he approached for work, noting that everybody was getting big contracts.

The man alleged that the former government minister replied: " 'Ah have a bigger wuk for you to do'. Ah bawl: 'Serious? What kinda ah wuk is that boy?' He say he paying \$250,000 to get rid of Barry Padarath—dis the one with the settah mouth."

The man further claimed that the former minister told him he would provide the resources necessary to carry out the plot.

"Ah say: 'This is ah big wuk yuh talking about.' He say: 'Ah giving allyuh all de guns, all de vehicles, time and place, location and all the full details.' He say: 'De job is yours. Try and organise some men.' So ah let him know: 'OK, Ah would see what it is going on', and he say he serious—doh tell nobody about this wuk."

The man alleged that the former minister then took \$3,000 from his pocket, handed it to him and told him that if he needed assistance, he should contact him because he wanted the job done soon.

Police asked the man what he believed the former minister meant when he allegedly told him to "get rid" of Padarath.

He responded: "To kill him. He did say to get rid of him clean, to wipe him out, and he made a sign with his hand across his throat from one end to the next. I think that mean to get rid of him, to kill him."

Asked what he knew about Padarath, the man replied: "He is a minister in Parliament in the UNC Government right now; he did tell meh is the minister, he is a slim Indian fella with a hard face and talkative. (Official named) tell me that he does talk too much—he hadda go."

The man told police he had never previously carried out any jobs for the former minister.

Asked whether he had ever accepted a "hit" job, he said: "No, ah do shooting and thing but ah never take a hit job."

Pressed on whether he had done jobs for his relative, either directly or indirectly, the man responded: "Small thing ah do fuh (name called) hit people gun butt and beat them up, put them to lie down on the ground and inject needles, fear in them."

Asked how soon the former minister allegedly wanted the job done, he

replied: "He say as soon as possible try and contact him and tell him what I decide to do."

Police also questioned the man about why he had decided to disclose the alleged murder plot.

He responded: "Ah lock up now and ah get a chance to do it. Ah couldn't do it out dey because they could put a hit on meh head. Ah doh trust certain police—they have police working with them."

He alleged that there were corrupt police officers operating at different stations.

Asked why he believed the official had given him \$3,000, the man claimed it was because the official wanted to "sweeten" him up.

Asked whether he had considered accepting the alleged hit, the man replied: "I thought about it and was thinking he had to be a mad man—\$250,000 alone to kill ah minister."

Asked why his relative believed he could carry out the job, he responded: "He believe that I do them kind of work before so I could do this one."

At the time of the Sunday Express report, Padarath had expressed concern that the former government minister allegedly implicated in the purported plot was still walking around freely.

He nevertheless told the Sunday Express that he had confidence in the Police Service and would not live in fear. (Trinidad Express)

FOR SALE

One 30KVA open set Generator with 200amp Automatic Transfer Switch.

\$40,000.00ec.

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Regional News

PAGE 31

Edghill dodges questions on MV Barima accountability, resignation calls



Minister responsible for the Transport and Harbours Department, Juan Edghill, on Friday repeatedly declined to say whether he has submitted evidence to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (CoI) into the MV Barima incident, insisting that he will address the matter “at the right time.”

The exchange occurred after the submission of the AG report on Friday at Parliament buildings, where the minister parried direct questions regarding his ministerial accountability and his involvement in public briefings following the maritime incident. When asked by a reporter if he had been requested to make submissions to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry in his capacity as the minister overseeing the sector, Edghill initially feigned uncertainty before reiterating a standard defense. “I said before and I will say it again: any matters to do with the MV Barima, I will speak at the appropriate time,” the Minister said.

Reminded that the CoI has been open and accepting submissions for weeks, the minister sought to distance himself from the body’s proceedings, stating plainly, “I am not a part of the Commission of Inquiry.”

The line of questioning also highlighted confusion over jurisdictional oversight. The minister asserted that while the vessel itself falls under the fleet of the Transport and Harbours Department, for which he holds portfolio responsibility, aspects related to “MV Barima” fall under the Ministry of Public Utilities. When challenged on why he previously spearheaded public press conferences

on the matter rather than his counterpart, Minister Indar, the minister dismissed the query, claiming the media was conflating distinct operational responsibilities.

“We are confusing two things,” the Minister responded. “The MV Barima is a member of the fleet that is controlled by the Transport and Harbours Department, of which I have ministerial responsibility...”

Pressure on the government has mounted in the two months since the incident, with affected families holding weekly

demonstrations demanding the Minister’s immediate resignation. Asked directly how he responds to these weekly calls, the Minister maintained his stance.

“I will speak to that at the appointed time,” he stated. Pushed on whether a two-month delay was unreasonable for the public and grieving families awaiting answers, the Minister repeated his refrain four times in succession “At the right time I will speak on the matter.” (Kaieteur News)



STOCK TAKING CLOSURE

We're closing for our annual stocktake.
Here's what you need to know:

 A. S. BRYDEN & SONS & FOOD SERVICE	 HEALTH & WELLNESS
 CLOSED Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October	 CLOSED Wednesday 30th September to Friday 2nd October
 LAST DAY TO ORDER Monday 28th September	 LAST DAY TO ORDER Friday 25th September


RETURNS

Last day for refunds this month:
Friday 25th September


WE REOPEN
MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Thank you for your understanding

Sincerely,
MANAGEMENT

China, US agree to establish AI safety channel, continue trade and military talks

China and the United States agreed to establish a channel for handling artificial intelligence (AI)-related incidents and accelerate work on military crisis communications following a three-day summit between President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump in Washington, the two governments said yesterday.

They also agreed to continue cooperating through a Board of Trade focused on selected bilateral issues. The White House said the board began operating this week.

The summit produced no major breakthroughs, but analysts said the steps toward greater cooperation were important because they established working groups that could help prevent disputes from escalating.

Xi returned to Beijing on Saturday, according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency. During the visit, Trump displayed unusual warmth toward Xi, despite having escalated a trade war with China the previous year that had global repercussions.

The two sides agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding on strengthening crisis communications and preventing crises between the two militaries, China's Foreign Ministry said Saturday in its readout. The one-page statement from the Chinese side was light on details.

Both sides will set up a communication mechanism for AI-related incidents, to discuss related risks and benefits, with an AI-specific dialogue scheduled for November.

Trump indicated on Saturday that there would be limits on what the US would share with China and said that Washington would not slow its AI efforts.

The "United States of America is not going to be putting on brakes," Trump told reporters outside the White House.

"They want to stop our progress because we're leading China by a lot and we're going to keep it that way."

He added: "I would rather not integrate because we're leading by a lot. When you're leading, you don't open it up to each other. We're leading by at least a year, maybe a year and a half. Some people say two years. I'm not looking to open it up."

The statement from China said both sides will continue to work together on the pledge to reduce reciprocal tariffs on roughly US\$30 billion worth of goods. During the summit, the two leaders agreed to extend a trade truce by two months. The White House statement said China agreed to import at least 10 million metric tons of coal from the US in 2027 and 2028. (AP)



VACANCY

Join Our Team

WE'RE HIRING — ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS!

Are you friendly, energetic, and passionate about great customer service?

KFC is looking for **dedicated individuals** to join our restaurant team as **Food & Customer Service Team Members**.

As a Team Member, you'll help create a great experience for our customers by:

- Providing fast, friendly, and exceptional customer service
- Preparing and serving our much-loved KFC products
- Working as part of a supportive and energetic team
- Helping to maintain a clean, safe, and positive restaurant environment

📍 COME READY TO INTERVIEW!

Bring your **resume** and come prepared to meet with our team. You could be one step closer to joining the KFC family!

Location: KFC Administration Office, Brysons Complex, Friars Hill Rd., St. John's, Antigua.

All applicants:

- **Must be 18 years and older**
- **Have Social Security & Medical Benefits**



Five arrested on ‘terrorism’ charges in UK near base used to strike Iran

British police have arrested five men near a US airbase in the UK used to strike Iran on suspicion of explosive and “terrorism” offences.

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday the suspects were looking to do “big damage” and were under investigation by British and US authorities.

Police received a call at around 12:45am GMT on Sunday about “three suspicious vehicles which appeared to be travelling towards the [RAF Fairford] air base” in the west of England.

This prompted officers to arrest five men on suspicion of committing offences under the Explosives Act, Gloucestershire Police said in a statement. British counterterrorism police has since taken the lead in the investigation.

“We are in the early stages of an investigation, and five men remain in custody,” Counter Terrorism Policing Senior National Coordinator Vicki Evans said in a statement. “A 400m cordon has been put in place around the vehicles while the Army’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit conduct examinations”, she added.

“As a precaution, around 85 households have been evacuated whilst these examinations take place.”

Gloucestershire Police Assistant Chief Constable Richard Ocone added that “the public can expect to see an emergency services presence in the area for some time”, while he called on people “not to speculate but to follow official channels for updates”.

The town is located near Royal Air Force (RAF) Fairford in Gloucestershire, an airbase that United States forces have used for strikes during the US-Israel war on Iran.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham, who has been receiving updates on the situation, wrote on X: “I know today’s



incident near RAF Fairford will be deeply concerning for local residents and for many people following developments across the country”.

Britain’s Defence Secretary Wes Streeting thanked the emergency and specialist teams who responded to the incident.

“We can be reassured that this is being dealt with,” the defence secretary said.

There was no immediate information about what prompted the five arrests, whether explosives were found, or if the suspected offences were connected to the airbase.

The US Air Force said it was aware of reports about the incident, but declined to discuss specific security measures.

A spokesperson said the 501st Combat Support Wing, a US Air Force unit in Britain, and other US units based in the United Kingdom remained vigilant and would take steps needed to protect US personnel and their families.

Trump meanwhile told reporters “the arrest in the UK was fantastic” and called it “an amazing job”.

“We had them under investigation. They were looking to do big damage to our port and working with the British worked out great... We had them under view for a long time, and we got them,” the US President said.

In March, three US B-1B Lancer bombers touched down at RAF Fairford after what is believed to be the first US strike mission against Iran launched from a British base, during the war on Iran.

Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a powerful military force that operates alongside the country’s regular armed forces, warned in July that bases used to launch attacks on Iran could be treated as legitimate targets.

Authorities have not linked Sunday’s arrests to Iran or said RAF Fairford was a target. (Al Jazeera English)

Pope Leo draws 800,000 people to central Paris for open-air Mass on iconic square

Hundreds of thousands of people packed Paris' iconic Champs-Élysées avenue to attend an open-air Mass with Pope Leo XIV on Saturday, a sign of the Catholic Church's enduring appeal in the once staunchly Catholic but officially secular country.

The Vatican estimated that 800,000 people attended – about 200,000 more than the number who had registered in advance. The turnout testified to the church's lasting influence in France despite declining attendance and secularizing trends that have emptied churches across Europe.

The American pope greeted the flag-waving, cheering throngs from his popemobile during a 2-kilometre (1.2-mile) parade along the grand boulevard leading to the Place de la Concorde for Mass, essentially the heart of Paris and a symbol of the French republic.

In his homily, Leo asked the crowds not to keep their faith to themselves, but to instead “let it overflow, so that those you meet may be refreshed and their thirst satisfied”.

“From this beautiful city of Paris, I pray fervently that the living water of the Holy Spirit may flow throughout France,” he said.

Although a security blanket shut down central Paris to road traffic, the partylike atmosphere drew people of multiple faiths and no faith at all. The fervour spanned generations. People brought dozens of babies and young children from the crowd for Leo to caress on the head as he rode slowly past aboard the popemobile.

“The message of Pope Leo goes well beyond Catholic people; he speaks about social justice, for example,” said Leontine Joseph, 42, a fervent Catholic who came with two friends of Moroccan origin who grew up in Muslim culture.

Leo has sought to encourage French Catholics to persevere in their faith



“even amid the thorns” of a secular world during his four-day visit. It began on Friday with his arrival and prayer at the restored Notre Dame, the first by a pope since the cathedral's devastating 2019 fire. It continued Saturday night when Leo arrived in Lourdes in southern France, one of the Catholic Church's most-visited shrines.

At the Catholic Institute of Paris on Saturday morning, the pope said he was surprised by the number of new converts in recent years.

“We must recognise, welcome and protect the small flame that the Holy Spirit has kindled in the darkness of the night, the tiny seed that strives to grow even amid the thorns,” he said.

Adult baptisms in France each year have tripled since 2016, hitting 13,000 this year. But statistics and experts caution that the uptick, which has also been recorded in secular Spain, doesn't counteract the overall downward trend.

The rivers of people who crammed central Paris and their joyful enthusiasm rivalled other communal but non-religious moments of celebration that marked France in recent de-

acades. Huge crowds celebrated on the Champs-Élysées when France won the soccer World Cup in 1998 and again in 2018.

Many on Saturday didn't identify as Catholics, but came to hear the pope's message.

“People are seeing a lot of really terrible images. This kind of event reminds people of what is really important in life,” said Thierry Chen, a 40-year-old Parisian startup entrepreneur who is not Catholic.

“You see a lot of different people here, so it's not just about one race, religion or nation, but about a common belief in humankind.”

Sylvane Le Goff, 68, who lives in the Paris region, came with her 10- and 12-year-old grandchildren to “give them unforgettable memories”. Le Goff, who was raised Catholic but is not practising, said she wanted to open her grandchildren's minds.

“It's not only about seeing the pope but it also is about his message of peace and unity, values I'd like to share with them,” she said.

Leo has clearly been impressed by the numbers and enthusiasm, especially at a Friday night vigil that kept the

International

AROUND THE WORLD

PAGE 35

71-year-old pope out until nearly 11 p.m. after a packed first day.

Some 80,000 young people filled the national stadium for an extravaganza of fireworks and a theatrical retelling of French Catholic history.

“Thank you for your courage! Thank you for your presence,” Leo said to raucous cheers, speaking off the cuff in French. “Thank you for your faith. You are the saints of France!”

The imposing stage erected for the Mass, capped with a golden cross, and rows upon rows of choir singers, clergy and others who prayed under the pope’s gaze on Place de la Concorde marked a new chapter for the history-steeped square.

It was an execution site during the French Revolution. Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette were guillotined there. For many in France, it embodies the Republic and traditionally stages Bastille Day celebrations. In 2024, the Paris Olympics gave it a blast of modernity, using it for break dance, skateboard, BMX and 3X3 basketball events.

Organisers of the Mass said it was the only area in central Paris that could accommodate such crowds.

However the choice was criticised by supporters of France’s strict form of secularism in public life based on a 1905 law separating church and state. They argued that the site represents the Republic, and that other places such as the Invalides, a complex of buildings where Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass with 240,000 people in 2008, would have been more appropriate.

Leo’s Mass came as a birthday present for Jean-Claude Farnabe, who turned 63 on Saturday and spent the morning securing a spot.

A lifelong Catholic, Farnabe attends Mass in the Paris suburb of Suresnes every Sunday.

“There are more and more converts,” he said. “Many youngsters are interested in faith and in God. Every Sunday, I see new people, people aged between 25 and 40, who are getting baptised.” (AP)



Antigua Barbuda
**FESTIVALS
COMMISSION**

**ONE
NATION
CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

ONE PEOPLE ONE L♥VE

JAN 9TH AND 10TH 2027

Two mass shootings in South Africa leave 27 dead

Twenty-seven people have been killed in two mass shootings hours apart in South Africa, the latest gun violence to hit the country.

Seventeen people were killed when eight gunmen stormed a bar close to Johannesburg on Saturday evening, with 15 more injured.

In a separate shooting in the early hours of Sunday morning, 10 people were killed outside an entertainment venue in a township near Cape Town and a further 11 were injured.

South Africa has one of the highest murder rates in the world and has struggled to contain gang-related gun violence in recent years. Police have not given a definitive motive for either of the latest attacks.

In Johannesburg, gunmen opened fire on customers outside the bar before continuing the attack inside and torching two vehicles before fleeing.

Police said thirteen men and four women were killed.

Gauteng Police Commissioner Lt Gen Tommy Mthombeni said people from Ethiopia and Lesotho were among those caught up in the shooting, but that the vast majority were South African.

He also said police believed the motive behind the shooting was robbery, as personal belongings had been taken, but that they could not rule out turf wars between illegal mining groups.

Shot of a burnt car in Johannesburg, while police officers and stand around it. A police van and a police cordon around a building can be seen in the background.



In Johannesburg, gunmen torched two vehicles after opened fire on customers at a bar.

Mining without permission in abandoned shafts or dump sites is a persistent problem in South Africa, causing numerous deaths from unsafe conditions. Authorities say the miners are typically undocumented migrants recruited by organised crime gangs.

Earlier, deputy provincial police commissioner Maj Gen Fred Kekana said the attack may have been a retaliation for an incident last month, in which one person was killed and another wounded, according to news agency AFP.

He said at the scene that police had clear pictures and in some cases names for the suspects.

In Cape Town, five victims died at the scene and a further five people died in hospital.

No arrests had been made in either case on Sunday morning.

The two mass shootings came days after 11 people were killed in the city of Durban when gun-

men stormed a house in the Kwa-Makhutha township.

Illegal weapons are prevalent in South Africa and gun violence has been a persistent problem for decades, with about 60 murders recorded every day in the country of 62 million.

But a recent spate of mass shootings has raised fears that the problem is deepening, with violence often linked to turf wars between gangs engaged in drug trafficking and illegal mining.

In February, President Cyril Ramaphosa called organised crime "the most immediate threat to our democracy, our society and our economic development".

Earlier this year, the military was deployed alongside police in areas with the highest murder rates in an effort to reduce armed violence.

On Saturday, a tenth woman's body was found in Ekurhuleni, to the east of Johannesburg, with local police saying they were unable to rule out a serial killer operating in the area with similarities between the deaths. (BBC)

Iran stands firm on Hormuz plan after US rejection

Iran stood firm Sunday on its conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, despite United States (US) President Donald Trump's rejection of the proposal, leaving the Middle East war locked in a stalemate.

The waterway is key to the world's energy supply and is now central to the conflict between Washington and Tehran, which was triggered nearly seven months ago with deadly strikes on Iran.

Iran's plan called for a cessation of all hostilities in the Middle East, including in Lebanon, according to Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, and a return to the conditions in the ceasefire deal that fell apart a few months ago.

That agreement, which dissolved during fighting over Hormuz, called for the release of frozen Iranian assets, the lifting of sanctions on Iranian oil and an end to the US naval blockade.

"Our conditions are clear, and any move toward reopening the Strait of Hormuz is contingent upon these conditions being fulfilled. We will not back down from them," Araghchi said on Sunday, state broadcaster IRIB reported.

"We have never closed the door to diplomacy or negotiations, but at the same time, we have never backed down from our rights."

But Trump said on Saturday that he rejected the truce deal.

"They want to make a deal where they open the Strait immediately because they're losing so badly," he told reporters. "They want to make a deal and I think that's fine. I like making a deal too."

His ambassador to the UN, Mike Waltz, accused Tehran of demanding too much in exchange for a return to the negotiating table.

"This was, I think, a pretty cynical attempt to put something on the table that they knew was unacceptable. To ask for the release of the blockade, the sanctions, international sanctions



and access to billions in assets, just to talk," he told NBC News in an interview broadcast Sunday.

"I think it's kind of common sense that the president doesn't have a lot of confidence this time after we just tried a few months ago."

Araghchi, however, said the Iranians "saw the first reaction from the US president, but so far, nothing has been conveyed to us by the mediators".

"We are waiting for the mediators to convey the definitive positions to us, and we will make a decision based on them," the foreign minister added.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards meanwhile said that they seized an American submarine drone on Sunday in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

It said the underwater vehicle was being used "for espionage purposes", adding that it was "now in the hands of the force's specialists for data recovery".

Washington and Tehran signed a memorandum of understanding in June that aimed to end the war, to reopen the strait and to launch talks on

Iran's nuclear programme.

But the deal broke down shortly afterwards when Iran fired on commercial ships in Hormuz that it accused of deviating from its approved route through the waterway.

Iran requires ships to obtain authorisation before passage, citing security and sovereignty reasons.

Ships that refuse to comply are regularly targeted, while the United States sporadically bombs Iranian coastal areas in retaliation.

At the UN, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan complained that the "international community has been absent" and is failing to live up to the responsibility to keep the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab open.

"The kingdom rejects any party's use of these vital passages as a tool for pressure, threat, or harm to the interests of states," he said, stressing the waterways' importance to global energy security.

In New York, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, according to his office, and said: "Iran has not walked away from the negotiating table but, given past experiences, it no longer trusts the United States."

Araghchi said at the UN: "Iran has conveyed to the United States, through Qatar, a concrete seven-day plan. If the necessary conditions are met, the strait can be reopened, and normal maritime passage restored within seven days."

"The choice now rests with the United States."

Hossein Mohebi, a spokesman for Iran's Revolutionary Guards, was quoted by Tasnim news agency as saying: "We will not cease punishing the US until Iran's seven conditions are met."

Mohebi had told AFP in an exclusive interview on Tuesday that ending hostilities in Yemen was also among Tehran's demands. (AFP)

Sports News

Three more teams advance in ABFA pre-season knockout cup



The Greenbay Hoppers FC team

Three more teams have advanced to the Round of 16 in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) pre-season knockout tournament.

Fifth-seed Garden Stars, sixth-seed Potters Tigers, and eighth-seed Greenbay Hoppers booked their spots into the next stage after winning their opening matches in the Round of 32 of the ABFA Pre-Season Knockout Cup.

Nadre Thomas scored twice as Garden Stars launched their campaign with a 5-0 drubbing of Point West Ham in New Winthorpes.

Thomas had conversions in the 24th and 57th minutes. The other goals were scored by Courtney Clarke in the fourth minute, Wilden Cornwall in the 28th minute, and Tequan Anthony in the 81st minute.

The Potters Tigers advanced after being awarded victory via default against Sea View Farm FC, which was unable to field a team for their Round of 32 encounter at the Sea View Farm playing field.

The Greenbay Hoppers prevailed 5-4 in a penalty shootout against Real

Blizzard after both teams fought to a goalless draw in regulation time of their encounter at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

All five players converted their penalty kicks for the Greenbay Hoppers. Brent Hilaire failed to convert the fifth and final spot kick for Real Blizzard after four of his teammates scored their penalty kicks.

But the Round of 32 match between seventh-seed Green City FC and Police FC at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park was postponed.



Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

ANTIGUA

 [currytandoorihouseanu](https://www.facebook.com/currytandoorihouseanu)

 [curryhouseanu](https://www.instagram.com/curryhouseanu)

 (268) 736-7165

Wins for Ministry of Education and Coaches in ABNA Business League



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education netball team.

The Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education enjoyed success in the mixed division in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) Business League Competition on Saturday.

The ABUT Ministry of Education claimed their second win in three matches by surging to a commanding 24-11 victory over the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Kareem Edwards sank 21 of his 29 shots, and Karol Carlton scored two of her four tries for ABUT Ministry of Education.

Daniel Kerr converted 10 of his 12 attempts for the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters, who slumped to their second loss in as many games in the mixed division.

After suffering defeat against the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education in their opening match, the Coaches rebounded to claim their first win with a 46-5 victory over Galley Bay Resort in the mixed division.

Akiel Hazelwood scored 39 of his 46 attempts, and Rayana Regis converted seven of her 12 shots for the Coaches.

Kendra Aska sank four of her 12 attempts for Galley Bay Resort, which lost for the second time in as many games.

The Ministry of Tourism notched up their third win in as many encounters by pulling off a narrow 18-14 victory over the University of the West Indies (UWI) in the female division on Saturday.

Krizia Duncan sank nine of her 14 shots, and Kizzy Hughes scored nine

of her 16 attempts for the Ministry of Tourism.

Joy Shaw scored all the points, converting 14 of her 28 shots, for the UWI, who suffered their first loss after winning their previous two games.

The ABUT Ministry claimed their second win in as many games with a 36-6 drubbing of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters B team in a female division encounter.

Adina Andre converted 20 of her 27 attempts, and Karol Carlton sank 16 of her 17 shots for the ABUT Ministry of Education.

Jnai Spencer scored four of her five attempts, and Rhodena Paul converted two of her five shots for the SLBMC JOMA IV League Netters B team, which lost for the third time in as many games.

BOE stay unbeaten in Business Basketball League

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

The Board of Education notched up their sixth win with an 82-58 drubbing of newcomers CTM Auto Spa at the JSC Sports Complex.

Daniel Perez shot a game-high 30 points, his brother Danny Perez sank 18 points, and Warren Bogle scored 14 points for the Board of Education.

Sheldon Gomes sank 18 points, and Lincoln Weekes scored 16 points for CTM Auto Spa, who suffered their fourth straight loss after winning all three previous matches.

Last year's losing finalists, Richie's Shooterz, continued their winning start to their campaign, securing their fourth win in as many matches with a 94-49 victory over Anjo Wholesale.

Sean Nicholas produced 19 points, Jaheem James sank 16 points, Cohen Desouza got 14 points, and Steven Matthew had 10 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Nathan Matthew converted 14 points, and Marcus Murphy scored 10 points for Anjo Wholesale, who suffered their second successive loss after winning all three previous matches.

After losing their first encounter, Sandals claimed their sixth consecutive win by securing a 59-40 victory over APCMOL.

Keroi Lee sank 16 points, and Se-lassie Braithwaite scored 13 points for Sandals. Takeem Martin shot a



The Board of Education basketball team

game-high 17 points for APCMOL, who suffered their second loss in six games.

The Sledge O'Ballers notched up their third win in six games by surging to a 68-49 victory over former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB).

Ariel Quallis sank 19 points, Leroy Percival had 18 points, and Terry Roberts scored 12 points for the Sledge O'Ballers. Elijah Charles, Raymond Dickenson, and Ishaan Peets each scored 10 points for the ABTB, who lost for the third time in six games.

In other matches, Sandals claimed their fifth win by pulling off a 44-39 victory over newcomers Curtail Bluff Hotel.

Keaddy Martin sank 12 points for Sandals, while Javonte Daley scored 11 points for Curtail Bluff Hotel, who lost for the fourth time in six games.

After losing all previous three matches, the Philippines, who are

making their debut in the competition, recorded their second successive win by snatching a narrow 64-60 victory against fellow newcomers, the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT).

Alvin Ferrerco shot a game-high 21 points, and Ronel Gomez scored 14 points for the Philippines. Nyke Watkins sank 20 points, Lena Mills converted 15 points, and Iba Hodge scored 10 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board claimed their third win with a 65-55 victory over CTM Auto Spa.

Marlon "Buju" Charles shot a game-high 25 points, and Lindsay McDonald scored 17 points for the ABTB.

Donte Trimmingham produced 14 points, Lincoln Weekes sank 13 points, and Tehran Zachariah scored 12 points for CTM Auto Spa.

Kohli hits century as India beat Windies in ODI series opener



India's Virat Kohli, left, and India's Ruturaj Gaikwad smiles as they leave the ground after winning the first one-day international cricket match against West Indies in Thiruvananthapuram, India, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026. (AP)

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, India (Reuters) — Virat Kohli became only the second batter after Sachin Tendulkar to reach 15,000 One-Day International (ODI) runs, achieving the milestone with an unbeaten century as India cruised to an eight-wicket victory over West Indies in the opening ODI on Sunday.

Kohli struck 139 not out from 88 balls and Shubman Gill made 110 as India chased down 296 with 50 balls to spare to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

"I got a challenge at this stage of my career to kind of up the ante and play a gear to higher end, that was exciting for me to work on," Kohli said after the match in Thiruvananthapuram.

"It excites you when you have to

unlock a new version at this stage of your career, which will eventually help, you know, anything that you play for, be it playing for India or in the IPL. It's really helped me a lot to play with a free mind and I think that is what is working for me."

Rohit Sharma and Gill launched the chase with a 74-run opening stand before Sharma was dismissed in the 12th over. Gill, the world's top-ranked ODI batter, then took control, maintaining the aggressive approach and bringing up his 10th ODI century with a sweep.

Kohli came in at number three and notched up his 86th international century, while Gill struck 110 from 108 deliveries as the pair put on a dominant 151-run stand off 132 balls that all but sealed the contest.

Roston Chase eventually removed Gill but Ruturaj Gaikwad made 13 off 19 balls and helped Kohli to steer India home without further alarm. Kohli sealed victory with successive boundaries.

Put in to bat, Justin Greaves and John Campbell gave West Indies a strong start, adding 135 from 117 balls for the opening wicket.

India struggled to find a breakthrough for much of the first 20 overs as the pair dominated the bowling and provided a solid platform.

Greaves, who was dropped by Sharma on 16, made India pay with a maiden ODI century and top-scored for the West Indies.

The momentum shifted when Kuldeep Yadav dismissed Campbell in the 20th over, beating him in the air as he swept a catch to short fine leg. Yadav and Prasidh Krishna then applied the brakes as West Indies lost four wickets for 22 runs between the 31st and 36th overs.

Yadav finished with four for 40 on his ODI return but Amir Jango counter-attacked with 58 off 43 balls. With support from Chase, he helped West Indies to recover from 198 for five to post 295.

Guwahati and Chandigarh will host the second and third ODIs on Wednesday and Saturday, followed by a five-match T20 series, starting on October 6.

Antigua beat Anguilla in CONCACAF Nations League



Antigua and Barbuda's Midfielder Dion Pereira, left, celebrates with teammate Thomas James-Bramble after scoring the second goal for the Benna Boys in their second match in Group B of League C in the CONCACAF Nations League at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Saturday, September 26, 2026. (Photo courtesy of CONCACAF)

After making a losing start to their campaign at home, the senior men's national team of Antigua and Barbuda picked up their first win in the 2026/27 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF) Nations League on Saturday night.

Christopher Douglas scored twice as the Antigua Benna Boys rebounded from a one-nil loss to Aruba in their opening match to secure a 5-0 victory over Anguilla in the second game of Group B in League C at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Douglas opened the scoring in the first minute of play to give Antigua and Barbuda the lead with a header as he capitalised on a pinpoint delivery into the box from the right.

Antigua and Barbuda doubled their lead in the 16th minute through a long-range rocket from Dion Pereira.

The home side capped off an impressive attacking first-half display with three more goals. Douglas scored his second of the match in the 21st minute, while D'Andre Bishop and Kayonte George found the back of the net in the 35th and 43rd minutes, respectively.

But the Benna Boys finished the match with nine men after two players received red cards for pulling the long locks of Anguilla's substitute midfielder Aedan Scipio.

Forward Keon Greene was sent off in the 72nd minute, and midfielder Shalon Knight was dismissed in the third minute of added time.

After being relegated from League B last year, Antigua and Barbuda are hosting and competing in Group B of League C, which also includes the national teams of Anguilla and Aruba, during late September and early October this year.

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

Anguilla and Aruba will clash in the last first-round encounter on Tuesday, September 29. All three teams will play each other once again in early October at the same venue in Antigua.

Meanwhile, Montserrat and the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) recorded wins in the League C group stage competition.

After prevailing 2-0 against the Turks and Caicos Islands in their opening match, Montserrat recorded a 3-0 victory over the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in Group A of League C at the TCIFA National Stadium in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands.

The USVI opened their campaign in Group C of League C with a 2-0 victory over St. Martin at Bethlehem Soccer Stadium in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands. St. Martin beat the Bahamas 8-0 in their opening encounter.

The three group winners of League C will gain promotion to compete in League B in the next edition of the CONCACAF Nations League.

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