

Fuel Prices Are Going Up...Again

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New APUA Board of Directors Sworn in at Government House

Fuel Prices Are Going Up...Again



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Roughly one month after fuel prices in Antigua and Barbuda were increased at the pumps, Prime Minister and Finance Minister Gaston Browne is announcing that consumers should brace themselves for another increase in prices...perhaps as early as today (Wednesday)

The prime minister was speaking at an event on Tuesday where the Chinese people were marking the 77st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China held at the Chinese Embassy.

According to PM Browne the new increase arises from the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran that has pushed up energy

costs around the world significantly.

"When these conflicts take place, even though we are not close to them geographically, the impact on us is disproportionate. We would have observed what has happened with the increase in the cost of living and in particular, energy costs. In fact, energy costs are going up tomorrow (Wednesday), unfortunately, as we have no control over it," he explained.

He said as a small developing country, the government cannot continue its programme of absorbing the increased costs in fuel to shield consumers and it is therefore forced to pass on the increased

costs to consumers.

"This has nothing to do with bad policies by my government; it is directly attributable to the conflict in Iran. So, for us, global stability is in our best interest. That's why we welcomed the signs of cooperation between China and the United States, two countries are critically important to Antigua and Barbuda," he declared.

However, the Chief Executive Officer of WIOC, Gregory Georges, indicated that arrangements are not fully in place for the price increase to take effect today (Wednesday) but are most likely to happen by Thursday.

Board of Education contributes EC\$30,000 to all-girls robotics team for South Korea competition



The Board of Education has contributed EC\$30,000.00 to help Antigua and Barbuda's first all-girls robotics team compete at the 2026 FIRST Global Challenge in

Incheon, Republic of Korea, from October 7 to 10. The five students also have the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

The Executive Financial Administrator at the Board of Education, Mr. Chet Jacobs, said the sponsorship would help the students develop their skills in science,

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99

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



Photo Essay



Photo Essay



Local News



technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“Students need opportunities to put what they learn in the classroom into practice. We are pleased to help these girls test their skills and learn from others,” he said.

The competition, themed “Igniting Innovation,” is expected to draw teams from more than 190 countries. Students will build and operate robots in a simulated challenge involving wildfire prevention, mitigation and recovery. They will also work alongside teams from other countries, sharing ideas and coordinating their robots’ performance.

Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Daryll Matthew met with the students at the ministry’s headquarters on Tuesday for a demonstration of their robot.

“This team shows the talent we have in our schools and why we must continue investing in STEM education. We are proud to support you and hope others will be encouraged to pursue science and technology,” he said.

The team comprises Hannah Masson, 16, team leader and aspiring forensic pathologist; Audella-Mae James, 15, engineer and aspiring astrophysicist; Gyanna Ryan,

16, coder and aspiring architect; Sidea Ambrose, 14, robot driver and aspiring interior designer; and Neola Noronha, 14, who handles inventory and hopes to become a biomedical engineer. The students were selected through the Tech-Byte summer STEM camp and are supported by their mentor Ms. Asanti Bacchus.

The students are continuing to test and modify their robot, recording its development in an engineering notebook. Masson thanked the Board of Education and The Ministry for their support.

“This gives us the chance to represent Antigua and Barbuda. We hope other girls will see us and want to get involved in robotics too,” she said.



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New APUA Board of Directors Sworn in at Government House



Governor-General, Sir Rodney Williams presided over the swearing-in ceremony for the new Board of Directors of the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) at Government House recently.

The newly appointed Board comprises:

Luther Lee — Chairman
 Purcell Bird — Deputy Chairman
 Sen. Shaquan O'Neil — Member
 Elisabeth Fane — Member
 Tesfa Francis — Member
 Kelvin Benjamin — Member
 Sir McLean Emmanuel — Consultant
 Joy Dublin — Corporate Secretary

In his remarks, the Governor-Gen-

eral congratulated the appointees and reminded them of the significant public trust associated with overseeing an institution responsible for the nation's water, electricity and telecommunications services.

Sir Rodney highlighted the continuing programme of investment and modernisation across APUA's operations, including expanded water-production capacity, improvements to storage and distribution infrastructure, developments in electricity generation and distribution, and initiatives aimed at strengthening the resilience of the country's telecommunications network.

Sir Rodney encouraged the Board to approach its responsibilities with integrity, diligence, sound judgement, accountability and independence of thought, while remaining focused on

the wider national interest and the reliable delivery of essential services to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Following the formal ceremony, Board members were joined by family members, friends and invited guests for photographs with the Governor General.

Photo 1: His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Rodney Williams with the newly sworn-in members of the APUA Board, Corporate Secretary and Consultant.

Photo 2: His Excellency with the new APUA Board, Corporate Secretary and Consultant, joined by family members, friends and invited guests following the swearing-in ceremony at Government House.

Schools In Antigua and Barbuda Participate In Regional Climate Resilience Project



A vital regional initiative is making major strides in protecting schools across the Caribbean from the accelerating impacts of climate change. Integrated Health Outreach Inc. (IHO), a Caribbean-based non-governmental organisation, in partnership with Eco Supplier Foundation, is spearheading the project, which has so far completed just over 50% of a series of planned climate-resilient infrastructure vulnerability assessments on schools in Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia.

The climate resilience project, which was launched in December 2025, is officially titled Socially Inclusive

Strengthening of Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Action in Caribbean SIDS. Its objective is to assess the infrastructural readiness and vulnerability of 21 primary and secondary schools across the three countries through a comprehensive kit of assessment tools. The data gathered will inform strategic plans for strengthening these key sites from a climate vulnerability standpoint.

The initiative stands out globally by fully integrating Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles, ensuring that future infrastructure upgrades cater specifically to the most vulnerable student popula-

tions, including young children, girls, and individuals with physical disabilities. Schools in the region also often serve as disaster shelters, so ensuring that they are truly resilient and designed on GEDSI principles is critical for disaster readiness.

Dr Nicola Bird, Executive Director of IHO, states: "In the schools assessed so far, our early assessments have revealed critical vulnerabilities, from structural deterioration to a severe lack of barrier-free emergency evacuation routes," adding, "By capturing this disaggregated data now, we are building an evidence-based roadmap to ensure no one is left exposed when the



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next major storm or climate heatwave impacts our region.”

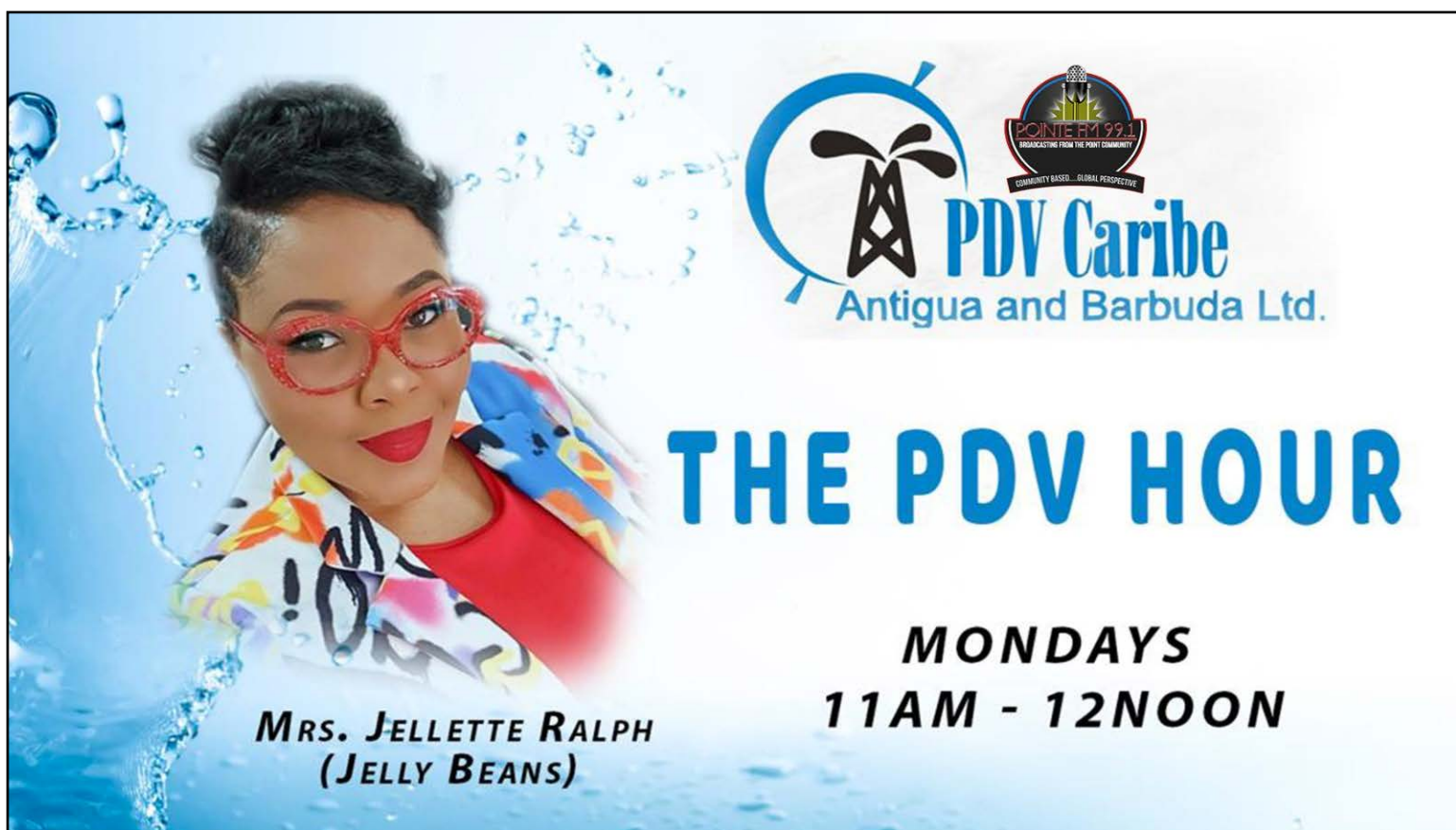
In Antigua and Barbuda, all the 6 targeted schools have been assessed. These detailed engineering and safety assessments were done at Bendals Primary School, Urlings Primary School, T.N. Kirnon Primary School, Pares Secondary School, the Princess Margaret School, and Sir McChesney George Secondary School (Barbuda). Based on the evaluation parameters

used for the project, preliminary resilience ratings ranged from 51% to 61% at these schools, highlighting urgent needs for things like hurricane-resistant roof upgrades, localised flood mitigation, and standard fire detection systems.

Beyond typical hurricane safeguards, the project has actively adapted its engineering frameworks to handle emerging regional climate threats. The assessments and future strategic

designs incorporate specific protocols to combat extreme regional heatwaves and El Niño phenomena, introducing infrastructure considerations for optimised ventilation, cooling, and shading to protect students during periods of extreme temperatures. The project is now moving rapidly into its next stage: executing community-wide validation workshops and finalising costed, universal-design structural blueprints.

The project is funded by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) through its Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF). The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia, through their respective Ministries of Education and Finance and relevant national authorities, which have formally endorsed the initiative and are supporting project implementation, coordination, and alignment with national education and disaster resilience frameworks.



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MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

Local News

DJ Jime Donates to Youth Intervention Project

Top entertainer, DJ Jime has made a donation of \$5-thousand towards the Youth Intervention Unit within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda to enable the department to carry out its functions more effectively.

DJ Jime (Jime Hunte) was moved to make the donation following a recent social gathering of the next generation of men in Antigua, where the conversation took a 'powerful' turn when Regis G. Burton. brought the spotlight to the Youth Intervention Unit and the vital role it plays in the society. Burton reportedly challenged those present to reflect on its true value — and the space it so desperately needs to grow.

The response was immediate as DJ Jime pledged \$5,000.00 ECD toward building a structure that will serve as:

An additional classroom

A recreation area

A lecture hall

And — if enough funds are raised — a proper counselor's office

"Because let's be honest: too often, we take the role of the counselor for granted. Yet they are on the front lines, guiding, mentoring, and helping to shape the next generation.

"This is about more than a building. It's about investing in our young people and giving them the spaces they need to learn, grow, and heal. We are now seeking the public's support to bring this project to life. Every contribution — big or small — counts," Inspector Veldon Raggette, who helped to coordinate the presentation stated.

He is asking those in the society who wish to donate towards this cause or to volunteer to reach out. "Let's build this together," he de-

DJ JIME EVENTS
ENTERTAINMENT WITH A PURPOSE

Investing in Our Youth

DJ JIME EVENTS IS PROUD TO PRESENT A
\$5,000 CHEQUE
TO THE YOUTH INTERVENTION UNIT
IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DEDICATED REHABILITATION WING.

The Youth Intervention Unit provides a safe and structured environment for young people who have been suspended from school, helping them use that time constructively rather than simply being at home.

Through conflict resolution, life-skills training, counselling, and intervention strategies, the Unit works to:

- De-escalate volatile situations
- Address underlying challenges
- Build life skills
- Help young people make positive choices

We believe in investing in our youth and supporting the organizations working every day to give them guidance, opportunity, and a *second chance*.

DJ Jime Events
ENTERTAINMENT WITH A PURPOSE.

YOUTH INTERVENTION UNIT
GUIDANCE • SUPPORT • A BRIGHTER FUTURE

clared.

The Youth Intervention Unit is a department in the police force that deals with juveniles who come into conflict with the law.

For example, if a student gets sus-

pended from any government school for certain offenses, the department will be informed and instead of the child staying at home unsupervised, the child will be sent to the Youth Intervention Unit for counseling and other methods of intervention.

Regional IPSC Experts to Lead Firearm Safety and Skills Training in Antigua and Barbuda



Reservoir Range at Potworks Dam will host a three-day IPSC Black Badge Training Programme from October 2-4, 2026, bringing certified practical shooting instructors from three Caribbean islands to Antigua and Barbuda.

The programme will focus on firearm safety, responsible handling, discipline, accuracy and sound decision-making, providing structured training for sport shooters, lawful firearm owners and members of law enforcement.

As a critical partner in firearm safety, law enforcement will also have the opportunity to participate in the programme and train alongside certified regional instructors, further strengthening practical skills in safe firearm handling, range discipline, accuracy and established shooting procedures.

The training comes at a particularly important time, as Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean face growing public concern surrounding firearm-related incidents. Organizers say the programme provides an opportunity to reinforce an equally important message: firearm safety begins with proper training, respect for the law, discipline and responsible handling.

“At a time when our society is understandably concerned about the unlawful and reckless use of firearms, we believe it is important to also promote a culture of responsibility among those who are legally authorized to possess and

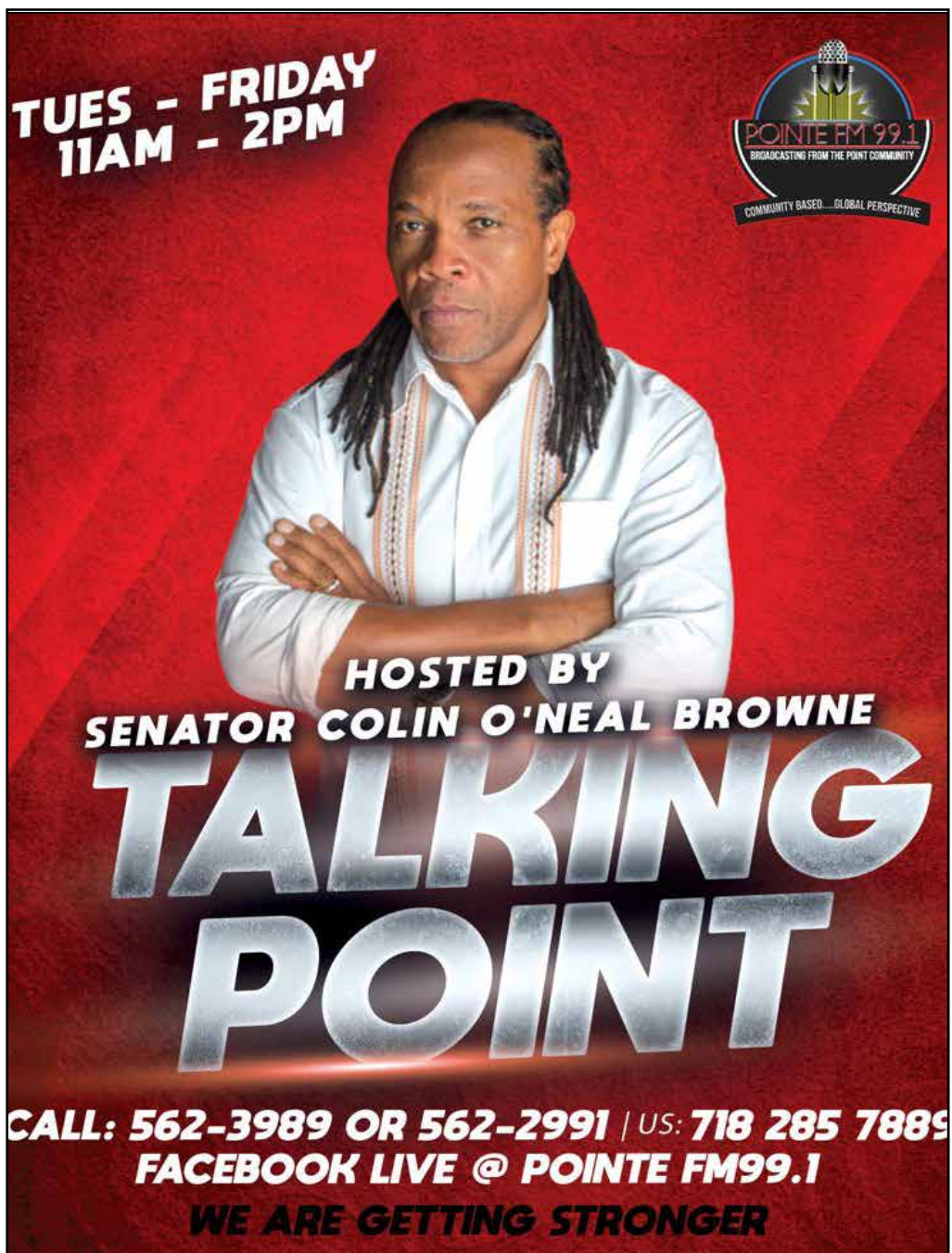
use them. Firearms demand discipline, sound judgement, proper training and an unwavering respect for safety,” organizers stated.

The programme is intended for lawful firearm owners and sport shooters and will provide participants with structured training in IPSC rules and match procedures, range safety and discipline, stage briefings and scoring, practical shooting fundamentals and match management.

IPSC, the International Practical

Shooting Confederation, governs practical shooting as an international competitive sport, with safety forming a fundamental part of its rules, training and competition standards.

Organizers emphasize that the message of the programme is simple but important: responsible firearm ownership must always be accompanied by proper training, discipline, safety and accountability.



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LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7

Rule 15

CLAIM NO.: ANUHPB2026/0233

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

**In the Estate of TRUEHART MARAINE SMITH, late of Carlisle
Development, St. John's, Antigua, Deceased**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
SECOND PUBLICATION**

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

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

Dated this 16th day of Sept 2026



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

Governor-General Visits TMS Senior Exercise Group



Photo highlights: His Excellency interacting with Mr. Rexford Travis James and observing members of the TMS Senior Exercise Group during one of their exercise sessions.

Sir Rodney Williams, Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, recently visited the TMS Senior Exercise Group, which operates from the Girl Guides Headquarters on Deanery Lane.

The group is led by Rexford Travis James, a 77-year-old retired fitness coach who continues to dedicate his time and experience to encouraging senior citizens to remain active and engaged.

During the visit, the Governor General observed members participating in their regular exercise programme and interacted warmly with the seniors. The group

includes participants of an impressive 97 and 98 years of age, demonstrating that maintaining an active lifestyle can remain an important part of life well into the senior years.

In brief remarks, the Governor-General commended James for his leadership and dedication and congratulated the members for their commitment to their health and wellbeing. Sir Rodney highlighted the importance of regular movement, good nutrition and maintaining a balanced approach to physical, mental and overall wellbeing, particularly as persons grow older.

The visit also provided an opportunity for members to demonstrate some of their regular exercises and to engage directly with Sir Rodney.

The Governor-General encouraged the group to continue its positive work, noting that initiatives of this nature can serve as an inspiration to other seniors throughout Antigua and Barbuda to remain active, socially connected and attentive to their health.

The TMS Senior Exercise Group meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

18-Year-Old Barbudan Remanded On Multiple Breaking and Burglary Charges

Aaron Williams of Barbuda has been remanded to His Majesty's Prison after appearing before the Magistrate's Court in Barbuda on multiple breaking and burglary charges.

He appeared before Magistrate Mighty on Tuesday, 29 September facing four separate charges arising from incidents reported on the sister isle between September 17 and September 25.

On September 17, he is accused of breaking into the dwelling house of a woman with intent to commit a felony, namely larceny.



He was further charged with breaking and entering the dwelling house of a man on September 23 and stealing two Samsung cellular phones and other property with a combined value of approximately EC\$3,215.

Williams was also charged with burglary in connection with a separate incident that allegedly occurred on September 24.

In another matter, he is accused of breaking into the dwelling house of a man on September 25 with intent to commit a felony.



HOSTS:
DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1

THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM

Antigua and Barbuda Dental Association Wins International Award for Young Dentists Initiative

Antigua and Barbuda has received international recognition for its efforts to develop the next generation of dental professionals, with the Antigua and Barbuda Dental Association winning an award at the FDI World Dental Congress held earlier this month in Prague.

The award recognises the association's **Young Dentists Initiative**, a programme designed to prepare young and early-career dentists for leadership roles within the profession.

Antigua and Barbuda was represented at the international congress by Dr. Deborah Robinson-Akande, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Dental Association and FDI National Liaison, and Dr. Kronsie Dickenson-Foster, Vice President of the association and Acting Senior Dental Consultant in the Ministry of Health.

The Young Dentists Initiative provides training in leadership, governance, advocacy and policy, career development and clinical education. It also creates opportunities for younger dentists to participate meaningfully in the association's leadership.

The recognition comes just one year after Antigua and Barbuda joined the FDI World Dental Federation, which represents more than one million dentists worldwide and serves as a global voice for the dental profession.

Dr. Robinson-Akande described the award as recognition of the commitment of young dentists and those who have worked to create opportunities for their professional growth.

"The award recognises the commitment of the young dentists and everyone who helped to create opportunities for them to lead and grow," she said.

She said membership in the FDI has also allowed Antigua and Barbuda to learn from the international dental community while contributing its own perspectives to global discussions on oral health.

"Although we are a small nation, our voice and experience can contribute internationally to influence decisions that



can ultimately affect Antigua and Barbuda," Dr. Robinson-Akande said.

She noted that suggestions made by the Antiguan and Barbudan delegation helped shape one of the organisation's policies, describing that involvement as particularly meaningful.

For Dr. Dickenson-Foster, participation in the FDI General Assembly was another significant aspect of the conference.

She said it was "humbling and deeply significant" to sit alongside representatives of national dental associations from around the world and recognise that Antigua and Barbuda has a voice in decisions influencing the international direction of dentistry.

"I am excited about working to translate these opportunities into meaningful initiatives that can benefit oral health in Antigua and Barbuda," she said.

Antigua and Barbuda's participation was also highlighted during a congress presentation on World Oral Health Day activities, with a photograph from the country's activities displayed alongside those of other participating nations.

Dr. Dickenson-Foster said the display reinforced the importance of the association's work at home.

"There was Antigua and Barbuda, right there among countries from across the world. For me, it demonstrated that what we are doing at home is being seen. Our participation matters, and our contribution is being recognised," she said.

The Antigua and Barbuda Dental Association has already begun to benefit

from its international connections. The FDI has offered to support continuing dental education in nationally by covering the costs of bringing regional speakers to the country, with the association responsible only for their local accommodation.

The chairperson of FDI membership also invited the Antigua and Barbuda Dental Association to join the **North American Regional Organisation (NARO)**, which provides another avenue for collaboration with dental associations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

NARO facilitates cooperation among its members in areas including education, research, dental practice and public health.

The Antiguan and Barbudan delegates also participated in FDI parliamentary and leadership activities, joining representatives from dental associations worldwide in discussions on oral health policies, programmes and priorities.

The Antigua and Barbuda Dental Association said the award represents more than recognition of an achievement already made. It views the honour as encouragement to continue investing in young dentists and creating pathways for them to develop their clinical, leadership and professional skills.

It said strengthening the next generation of dental professionals will help build future leadership within the profession while contributing to quality oral healthcare for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Rawdon Turner: 'We Have Lost Our Moral Compass' on Child Abuse

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Rawdon Turner has issued another emotional appeal for greater protection of children, declaring that Antigua and Barbuda has “lost our moral compass” as Parliament debated amendments to strengthen penalties for certain sexual offences against minors.

Turner made the remarks on Monday during debate on the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2026, which seeks to increase penalties for offenders convicted of specified sexual offences against children.

The Minister said the abuse of children was occurring in circumstances where those expected to protect them were sometimes the alleged perpetrators. He acknowledged suggestions that the minimum age of consent should be raised from 16 to 18, but said the situation is difficult when the abuse is being carried out by those who are in positions to protect the very children they prey on.

“What do we do when the adult who is supposed to be taking care of the child in the home, behind closed doors, is sexually abusing the child?” he asked.

Turner urged members of the public to take reports and signs of abuse seriously, stressing that children should be listened to and that suspected abuse should be reported.

“We need to accept the fact that children are being abused and when you hear, you see, you suspect, tell somebody, call somebody, say something, listen to your child,” he said.

The Minister recounted a case involving a seven-year-old girl who was removed from her home and taken to hospital after concerns of sexual abuse. According to him, medical examination confirmed injuries, while the child repeatedly identified her mother’s boyfriend as the person that was allegedly sexually abusing her.

He said the child’s mother initially rejected the allegation but later began



to recognise signs that had previously gone unnoticed.

Mr. Turner used the case to urge parents to believe children when they report inappropriate behaviour.

“You have to start believing the children, talk to them,” he said.

He also called for children to receive age-appropriate education about sexual abuse, including teaching them from an early age about appropriate and inappropriate physical contact.

“We have to talk to them about sex at an early age,” Turner said, acknowledging resistance from some parents and teachers to discussing the subject with young children.

“They must understand from early what is a good touch, what is a bad touch and not be afraid to speak up.”

He added that protecting children must extend beyond parents and the formal child-protection system, calling on communities to once again embrace collective responsibility for children.

“I am pleading to the village whose responsibility it once was to protect the child,” he said.

Mr. Turner specifically addressed adults who gather around schools and sporting facilities, urging them to stop behaviour that could place children at risk. Turner said principals should not have to monitor school gates to pro-

tect students from adults allegedly attempting to engage young children.

“Our moral compass is not working, Mr. Speaker, and we need it back,” he declared.

The Minister of Social and Urban Transformation also addressed Prime Minister Gaston Browne’s calls for castration of repeat sexual offenders, saying the cases encountered by social services demonstrate the severity of child abuse.

“When the Prime Minister calls for castration, whether it’s chemical or physical, I can tell every member of this Parliament and I can tell every citizen in this country, if you sit down for 20 minutes and read the files of what our children in this country are exposed to... you wouldn’t call for chemical castration,” Turner said.

Turner stressed that sexual abuse is only one aspect of the challenges facing vulnerable children.

He also described cases involving malnourishment, physical abuse and children being subjected to unsafe conditions at home.

The Minister of Social and Urban Transformation said the issue requires collective action from parents, teachers, community members, social workers, law enforcement and other agencies responsible for child protection.



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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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SLBMC to Host First Antigua and Barbuda Clinical Neurology Summit

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) will host the inaugural Antigua & Barbuda Clinical Neurology Summit from November 13–15, bringing together neurologists, physicians, nurses, allied health professionals and other healthcare providers from across the Caribbean, Canada and the USA for three days of clinical education and knowledge exchange.

The Summit will focus on stroke, headache disorders, epilepsy and other areas of neurological care, with a dedicated nursing track on the final day. The program will feature regional and international speakers and will offer both in-person and online participation.

The conference comes at an important time for neurological care in Antigua and Barbuda. SLBMC recently became an Essential Stroke Centre certified by the World Stroke Organization, the first in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and among only a few in the Caribbean and Latin America.

For **Dr. Gaden Osborne, SLBMC Neurologist and Chair of Subspecialty Services**, the Summit is an opportunity to build on that progress.

“Certification as an Essential Stroke Centre was an important milestone, but the work does not end there,” Dr. Osborne noted. “Good neurological

care depends on what we continue to learn, how we apply that knowledge, and how well our teams work together. This Summit allows us to strengthen those areas, bring international expertise to Antigua, and create a space for our own clinicians to share what we are doing here. Ultimately, the goal is simple: to improve the care available to people in our community.”

Stroke remains a significant public health concern, affecting patients and families across Antigua and Barbuda. But stroke is only part of the picture. Headache disorders and epilepsy also affect many individuals and families in our community, impacting quality of life and highlighting the need for greater awareness, understanding and access to care.

Lyandra Richards, SLBMC Learning & Development Coordinator, emphasized that consistent medical education directly translates to better clinical outcomes:

“Learning in healthcare cannot be a one-time exercise. Medicine changes, evidence evolves, and the needs of our patients change with it. We have to keep learning from research, from experienced colleagues and from one another across disciplines. What matters is not simply attending a conference or gaining new information, but taking that learning back into our

teams and using it to improve how we care for patients. That is how professional development becomes better patient care.”

In addition to serving as an educational hub, the event provides a unique platform to showcase the growing clinical expertise being cultivated right here in Antigua.

Salma Crump, Head of Marketing & Communications at SLBMC, highlighted the hospital’s broader commitment to building local capacity:

“We want this to be more than a conference that happens in Antigua. We want it to create connections that continue after the three days are over. Our community benefits when our healthcare professionals have opportunities to learn, exchange ideas and bring new knowledge back into their practice. It also matters that we can bring regional and international expertise here while giving our own local professionals a platform to contribute to the conversation.”

The Antigua & Barbuda Clinical Neurology Summit will take place November 13–15, 2026. **Healthcare professionals interested in attending can view the program, speaker information and registration details at: <https://neuroantigua.org/>.**

Statement from Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Chairperson, Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, on the Passing of The Mighty Sparrow



The Caribbean mourns the loss of a true giant.

The Mighty Sparrow was more than a legendary calypsonian. He was our voice, our storyteller, our teacher, and our cultural compass. For generations, his music helped us understand who we are as Caribbean people. Through his songs, he captured our laughter, our resilience, our struggles, our triumphs, and our spirit in a way that no one else could.

While Sparrow was born in Grenada and belonged to Trinidad and Tobago, he belonged to all of us. Every Caribbean nation saw itself in his music. We embraced him as our own because he spoke to our experiences, our culture, and our identity. We are proud that one of the greatest artists ever produced was one of us. His genius emerged from Caribbean soil and was nurtured by Caribbean people.

At the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, where we have dedicated ourselves to preserving, promoting and advancing our culture, we know that Sparrow's contribution to calypso and Caribbean music is immeasurable. Every calypsonian who has stepped onto a stage, every songwriter who



has crafted a lyric, and every artist who has used music to tell our stories has been touched by his influence. The stage on which so many of our performers stand today was, in part, built by giants like Sparrow.

He did not just sing calypso. He transformed it. He elevated the artform. He carried it beyond our shores and onto the world stage, all while remaining true to the people and experiences that inspired him. In doing so, he showed the world the brilliance, creativity, and power of Caribbean culture.

His passing is not only a loss for Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, but also for the entire Caribbean family. We grieve not only for who he was, but for what he meant to us.

On behalf of the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, fellow

artists, and the people of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. We stand with you in sorrow and in profound gratitude for a life that gave so much to our region.

Let us continue to play his music, study his craft and honour the legacy of a man who helped define Caribbean identity through song.

Legends do not die when their voices fall silent. They live on in every stage they inspired, every song they shaped and every heart they touched.

Rest well, Slinger "Mighty Sparrow" Francisco, ORTT CM OBE, OCC. Thank you for giving a voice to a people, a pride to a region, and a soundtrack to a Caribbean civilization. Your songs will never fade.

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul
 Chairperson

Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission

Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province and Scrub Life Cares Partner to Support Children and Families in Grenada



Back-to-School Fair combines ministry, public health, education and practical support for children and families

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province and Scrub Life Cares joined forces in Grenada for a community-centered Back-to-School Fair focused on supporting children and families with school supplies, personal care resources, health education and essential menstrual products.

Held on August 29, 2026, at the Vincennes Community Center, the event brought together the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, Moravian Church St. Kitts Conference, Moravian Church Tobago Conference, Bethshalom Fellowship of the Moravian Church in Grenada, Scrub Life Cares and other community partners in a shared effort to prepare young people for the new academic year.

More than 60 children received school supplies and personal hygiene resources during the event, while over 500 menstrual products were distributed to help improve access to essential menstrual health supplies within the community.

The collaboration reflected a shared belief that supporting young people requires attention not only to their academic needs, but also to their health, dignity, confidence and overall well-



being.

For the Moravian Church, the initiative represented ministry in action — bringing faith, service and community care together in a practical way. The event provided children and families with access to school supplies, personal hygiene items, free haircuts, hair braiding, life-skills activities and other resources aimed at helping students begin the school year feeling support-

ed and prepared.

For Scrub Life Cares, the partnership created an opportunity to integrate public health education and menstrual health support into a trusted community setting.

“Community health is strongest when organizations work together with a shared purpose,” said Tanya Ambrose, MPH, Founder and CEO of Scrub Life Cares. “This collaboration allowed us



to combine the Moravian Church's deep connection to community with our work in menstrual, reproductive, sexual and maternal health education. That is the kind of partnership that can create meaningful and lasting impact."

Ambrose added that menstrual health remains an important part of school readiness and youth wellbeing. "When young people do not have access to menstrual products or accurate information about their bodies, it can affect their confidence, participation in school and overall health," she said. "Providing products is important, but equally important is creating spaces where young people can ask ques-

tions, learn without shame and feel supported."

The partnership also highlighted the important role faith-based organizations can play in public health and community development. Churches and faith communities are often among the most trusted institutions within communities, making them valuable partners in helping connect families with health information, resources and services.

The Back-to-School Fair demonstrated how ministry and public health can work side by side, combining compassion, education and practical support to meet the needs of children and fam-

ilies.

Scrub Life Cares and the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province emphasized that collaboration remains essential to addressing community needs effectively. "No single organization can do this work alone," Ambrose said. "When faith organizations, nonprofits, businesses, health professionals and community leaders come together, we are able to reach more people and provide more comprehensive support."

The organizers also expressed appreciation to the businesses, organizations and individuals whose contributions helped make the initiative possible. Special thanks were extended to Caribbean Pharmaceuticals, Senator Lamin Newton, Aunt Flow and Go To Enterprises for helping ensure that menstrual products and other resources were available for distribution.

Their support strengthened the event's ability to respond to the practical needs of children and families while reinforcing the value of private-sector and community partnerships in advancing health and wellbeing.

For Scrub Life Cares, the Grenada outreach also represents another step in its continued work to bring menstrual, reproductive, sexual and maternal health education and resources to communities beyond its existing program areas. For the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, the initiative forms part of its broader commitment to service, ministry and strengthening communities across the region.

Together, both organizations hope the Grenada initiative can serve as an example of what is possible when faith, public health, community leadership and partnership come together around a common goal: healthier children, stronger families and more resilient communities.

For more information or to support Scrub Life Cares, visit www.scrublifecares.org or follow on Instagram @scrublifecares.



A vibrant and colorful poster for the Antigua Carnival 70th Anniversary. The background features a collage of carnival performers in elaborate costumes with large, multi-colored feathered headdresses. The performers are smiling and dancing, with one holding a microphone. The overall color palette is bright and festive, with a mix of purple, pink, blue, and yellow. In the center, there is a stylized logo consisting of a black silhouette of a person with arms raised, surrounded by a fan-like shape in various colors (yellow, green, blue, red, pink). A small flag is visible to the right of the logo. Below the logo, the text "ANTIGUA" is in bold black capital letters, followed by "Carnival" in a large, flowing pink script. Underneath that, "THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL" is written in smaller black capital letters. The "70th" is prominently displayed in a large, 3D, multi-colored font. At the bottom, a white rectangular box contains the dates "JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027" in bold pink capital letters. Below the box, social media icons for Facebook and Instagram are shown, followed by the text "ANTIGUA CARNIVAL" and "@ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL".

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Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

Legendary **70**

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027

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Grenada raises concern over Cuba situation at UN General Assembly

Grenada has expressed “deep concern” over the continuing hardships faced by the people of Cuba, citing economic pressures and ongoing challenges affecting the country.

Addressing the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), chair of the Grenada delegation Ingrid Jackson said the international community must remain attentive to the struggles of ordinary Cuban households, particularly children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups.

“We call for constructive engagement that places the well-being of the Cuban people at its centre and opens a path to meaningful relief, improved living conditions and renewed opportunities,” Jackson said.

She said Cuba and the United States must confront the difficult but solvable issues surrounding sanctions, the removal of the embargo and the need for reforms aimed at ensuring the continued welfare of the Cuban population. She noted that some reforms were already underway in Cuba.

During her address, Jackson also highlighted Grenada’s support for reform of the multilateral system, saying global institutions must better reflect the diversity, experience and aspirations of the people they serve.

Grenada joined other Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states in supporting the candidacy of Guyana’s Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Jackson said Caricom leaders had endorsed Rodrigues-Birkett as the region’s candidate, pointing to her experience as Guyana’s former foreign minister and permanent representative to the United Nations as evidence of her commitment to diplomacy, dialogue and international cooperation.

She said the Caribbean has demonstrated that the size of a country does not determine the strength of its ideas, leadership or contributions to the inter-



national community.

Jackson described Rodrigues-Birkett’s potential election as a historic moment for the Caribbean and an affirmation that small island developing states can contribute to leadership at the highest levels of the multilateral system.

Jackson said Grenada also supports Caricom’s call for the timely renewal of the mandate of the Gang Suppression Force (GSF), along with its rapid deployment in partnership with the Haitian National Police.

She stressed the need for adequate personnel, financing, equipment and logistical support, while ensuring appropriate human rights safeguards.

According to Jackson, strengthening security in Haiti is essential to creating the conditions for credible, free, fair and inclusive Haitian-led elections, stronger national institutions and the restoration of constitutional governance.

“Haiti is not a failed state. Haiti represents a promise yet to be fulfilled. It is a promise to the Haitian people that the international community must honour not with pity, but with purpose, not temporarily, but sustainably,” she said. “And even as we respond to the security crisis, humanitarian assistance must remain at the centre of our efforts.”

Jackson said the UN General Assembly is taking place at a time of major global transformation, presenting both chal-

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Regional News

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allenges and opportunities to strengthen international cooperation.

Referencing the UNGA theme, “Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation, a United Nations that delivers for all”, she said countries must move beyond declarations and focus on delivering practical results.

For Grenada, she said rebuilding trust requires demonstrating that international cooperation produces meaningful outcomes, respecting the voices of small states and creating genuine partnerships that allow all countries to pursue their development goals.

Jackson reaffirmed Grenada’s commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law, peaceful dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

“In an increasingly interconnected world, cooperation is not merely desirable; it is indispensable,” she said, adding that “the transformation we advocate internationally must also take place at home”.

Jackson said Grenada is pursuing a long-term development roadmap ahead of its 75th anniversary of independence, with transformation centred on people and resilience.

She said this includes strengthening the economy while protecting the environment, embracing technology while safeguarding humanity and preparing for climate-related challenges before disasters occur.

“As a small island developing state, Grenada understands resilience but experience has also taught us that resilience cannot begin after disaster strikes,” she said.

Jackson called for greater international cooperation on climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure and access to financing.

She said small island developing states should not be viewed only as victims of climate change, but also as examples of resilience and innovation.

“Climate action remains one of the areas in which collective effort can make a profound difference. Grenada remains committed to strengthening resilience and advancing sustainable and low carbon development but ambition without

implementation is merely aspiration,” Jackson warned.

She urged greater access to predictable and responsive climate financing, saying vulnerable countries need the resources required to implement their commitments.

Jackson welcomed international efforts to recognise that development challenges cannot be measured by income alone.

She said the multidimensional vulnerability index provides an opportunity to better account for the unique circumstances of small island developing states, including exposure to climate

change, natural disasters and external economic shocks.

Grenada, she said, encourages member states, development partners and financial institutions to adopt vulnerability-informed approaches to development financing.

She added that improved access to concessional financing, climate finance, disaster risk financing and innovative financial tools can help countries transition from vulnerability to resilience and from recovery toward sustainable growth. (CMC)



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Regional News

Nearly 40 per cent of disease burden in the Americas could be averted, PAHO report finds

Nearly 40 per cent of the total disease burden in the Americas could potentially be avoided through more effective prevention, timely diagnosis and treatment, and stronger health systems, according to the latest edition of *Health in the Americas*, presented by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) during its 63rd Directing Council.

The report finds that people across the region are living longer than ever, but not necessarily healthier lives. Life expectancy reached 77.1 years in 2023, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Between 2000 and 2023, it increased by nearly four years, while healthy life expectancy increased by only around a year and a half.

“The findings are compelling. Nearly 40 per cent of the region’s total disease burden is potentially avertable,” said Dr Jarbas Barbosa, Director of PAHO.

“Much of this burden stems from cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and kidney diseases, maternal and neonatal disorders, violence and injuries, substance use disorders, and respiratory infections, including tuberculosis. Effective prevention and timely, quality care can prevent much of the illness, disability, and premature death associated with these conditions.”

The estimate of potentially avertable disease burden is based on health outcomes already achieved in countries within the region, showing that substantial additional health gains are possible with existing knowledge, technologies, and interventions.

The analysis shows that the burden of disease across the Americas is increasingly shaped by chronic illnesses and disability. Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, mental health conditions, and other chronic illnesses account for a growing share of health loss across the region.

Many of these conditions are linked



to preventable or modifiable risk factors such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, tobacco and alcohol use, and environmental risks including air pollution.

According to the report, countries with similar levels of resources often achieve very different health outcomes. This suggests that health gains depend not only on how much countries spend on health, but also on how effectively resources are allocated and services are delivered.

The challenge, the report finds, is not simply to identify effective interventions, but to ensure that proven solutions reach people at scale – through strong primary health care, well-designed health services and more strategic use of available resources.

Health in the Americas 2026 identifies five areas where countries can focus action:

1. Strengthen primary health care to

ensure access to routine screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and other major conditions, while addressing the biggest causes of ill health – high blood pressure and blood sugar, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, tobacco and alcohol use, air pollution and other environmental risks.

2. Prioritize and fund high-impact health services, translating evidence into affordable, implementable service packages backed by health workers, medicines, diagnostics and referral systems to ensure priority health services are available and delivered effectively.

3. Target the greatest gaps using national data to identify where disease burden is highest and where improvements are most achievable, particularly among populations facing barriers related to income, geography, education and access to care.

4. Act across sectors to address the

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wider drivers of health, including tobacco and alcohol use, food environments, physical activity, air pollution, road safety, violence, water and sanitation, climate-related risks and social protection.

5. Strengthen accountability and collaborate across countries to implement priority actions, share practical solutions and learn from what works.

The report comes as health systems across the Americas face a changing demographic and epidemiological landscape, including population aging, declining fertility, migration and an increasing burden of chronic and disabling conditions.

At the same time, important gaps in access and financial protection persist. Out-of-pocket spending accounts for nearly one-third of current health expenditure in the region, highlighting the need to advance universal health coverage and protect people from financial hardship due to health costs.

For PAHO, the findings reinforce the importance of building health systems centered on primary health care and ensuring that health investments are directed toward interventions that deliver the greatest impact.

“We know what works. The evidence is clear, and the opportunity is significant,” Dr Barbosa said. “The challenge is translating evidence into action amid fiscal pressures while delivering quality care at scale.”

Through Health in the Americas 2026, PAHO provides countries with evidence and analytical tools to identify where the greatest health gains can be achieved, helping guide investment and strengthen delivery of priority services.

Since 1954, Health in the Americas has been PAHO’s flagship assessment of health trends and its determinants in the region, supporting countries in setting priorities and advancing progress toward a healthier and more equitable Americas. (Jamaica Gleaner)



Regional News

Caribbean agriculture ministers call for deeper regional integration, new financing model

Caribbean agriculture ministers are calling for deeper regional integration, improved transportation and logistics, and a new financing model to strengthen food security and transform the region's food systems.

The call came during a plenary session on September 28 at Caribbean Week of Agriculture, held at the Ocean Coral Spring Resort in Trelawny, Jamaica, where ministers warned that the region's food security ambitions cannot be achieved without dismantling trade barriers, harmonising standards and building the infrastructure needed to move agricultural produce efficiently between countries.

The session, titled 'Achieving the Region's Vision 25 By 2025+5: The Roadmap for Regional Food Security and Food Systems Transformation', was moderated by Ambassador David Prendergast, Director of Sectoral Programmes at the CARICOM Secretariat.

Jamaica's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Floyd Green, joined counterparts from Barbados, Belize and Saint Lucia to assess progress and outline priorities for achieving the region's food security goals by 2030.

Belize's Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries, Rodwell Ferguson, stressed the need for greater intra-regional trade.

"I do not believe that we are trading as much as possible with each other. We must help each other survive," Ferguson said.

Ministers identified inadequate air and sea links, limited cold-chain storage and inefficient border processes as major obstacles to moving agricultural commodities from countries with surpluses to those experiencing shortages.

They said improved transportation networks and the development of regional food hubs are essential to ensuring that increased production translates into greater food availability across the Caribbean.

The discussions also highlighted the



need for harmonised regional standards to facilitate trade. Saint Lucia's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Sustainable Development, Lisa Jawahir, said consistent standards would help the country's value-added products meet regional quality requirements and compete fairly in the regional market.

Meanwhile, Green pointed to Jamaica's progress in domestic agricultural production, despite weather-related setbacks.

"We used to average approximately 600,000 tonnes of domestic production. In 2022/2023 we hit our highest level ever at 841,000 tonnes," he said.

"And despite losing the entire last quarter because of Hurricane Melissa, we still ended the year with our second highest level of domestic production."

Green said building resilience requires countries to prepare for disasters before they occur.

"In order to build a resilient food system, we must build forward. As Caribbean nations, we do not have the luxury of waiting until a disaster strikes to put measures in place. We must plan ahead," he said.

He also highlighted initiatives aimed at encouraging youth and women to enter agriculture, including land allocations, a moratorium on lease payments and an agribusiness challenge designed to stimulate innovation.

Financing emerged as another major concern, with ministers arguing that international funding arrangements must better reflect the Caribbean's vulnerability to climate shocks, small market sizes and limited collateral.

Barbados' Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Shantal Munro-Knight, said the region needed partners who understood its circumstances.

"We must have investment partners who truly understand our nuances as a region," she said.

Green called on international financing institutions to develop funding arrangements tailored to the Caribbean's needs.

"We need to redefine financing for the region and not try to fit the Caribbean into an archaic box for financing," he said.

"I'm challenging our international partners to come up with a financing model for the region that takes our own risks into consideration. If we can finalise a model endorsed by the financing bodies this week, then CWA would have certainly achieved something."

The plenary ended with a call for concrete action in areas including capacity building, trade facilitation and the development of agricultural technology ecosystems, as Caribbean countries seek to strengthen regional cooperation and advance food security towards 2030. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Press freedom under pressure



Politicians and judges are increasingly attempting to shut down press freedoms in Mexico, raising concerns among journalism watchdog groups.

In 2025, a new lawsuit against journalists or media outlets was filed every six days in Mexico, 69 cases in total, according to Article 19, a press freedom watchdog, triple the previous year.

Politicians have discovered that lawsuits are “a much more effective way to silence the press because they give the impression of legality”, said Jan-Albert Hootsen, the Mexico representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Tribuna, a 50-year-old daily newspaper in the southeastern state of Campeche, became the flagship media outlet during the administrations of the Institutional Revolutionary Party which governed the state for nearly a century.

Then Layda Sansores, of the ruling Morena party, won the 2021 gubernatorial election. And things quickly changed.

She pulled government advertising from Tribuna — advertising that was necessary for the paper to continue to publish. She started her own television programme promoting her administration and demeaning journalists, handing out Oscar-style awards — called the ‘Golden Pinocchio’ — to journalists she deemed the biggest “liars”.

Tribuna ran columns railing against her, and those columns sometimes went beyond her politics. Criticism intensified with gender-specific and homophobic attacks. Then in 2024, Tribuna, starved of revenue, ceased

to print though it continued to publish online, including scathing articles against Sansores.

Sansores responded with several civil and criminal complaints against Jorge Luis González, who served as its editor for three decades and continues as a contributor, alleging moral damage, gender-based political violence and hate speech.

In mid-2025, one of Sansores’ criminal cases against González led judges to bar him from journalism for two years and to have a judicial censor review Tribuna articles before online publication. Press freedom watchdogs strongly denounced the decision, arguing that prior censorship is unacceptable and concerned the decision might set a precedent.

González said he immediately appealed the measures and a judge temporarily suspended them pending a final ruling of the case.

Sansores has denied persecuting or censoring the press and says her lawsuits are to protect women. She did not respond to requests for comment.

Several local reporters say she also changed the way the authorities try to control the press. Campeche officials now “stop you with lawsuits”, said Ronny Aguilar, a local journalist and digital content creator.

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International

AROUND THE WORLD



Reporters Without Borders has denounced the growing and widespread use of laws as weapons against the press, especially in the Americas.

US President Donald Trump has banned three news outlets' reporters from the White House, escalating his efforts – in the courts and through administrative action.

In Mexico, the weaponisation of the judicial system comes amid an increase in journalist killings. Seven journalists were killed this year, five of them in less than three months, one of the deadliest spikes in over a decade, according to CPJ.

Some of those targeted with lawsuits, including Veracruz crime reporter Rafael León, acknowledge that the experience has changed how they work. Although terrorism charges against León were dropped after President Claudia Sheinbaum intervened, he now reports less and works in fear, he said.

Sheinbaum has softened the hostile tone her predecessor, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, used towards some journalists, but a new federal regulation to protect “audiences’ rights” set to take effect this month has alarmed press watchdogs.

The president insists it will better protect the public’s right to complain about any publication without leading to censorship. Some groups fear it could allow the state to intervene in some disputes ahead of Mexico’s 2027 elections.

Leopoldo Maldonado, the UN special rapporteur on freedom of expression, warned that although governments may have legitimate reasons to combat disinformation or hate speech, laws that turn the state and judges into arbiters of the truth “generally end very badly”.

Among other problems, he said, such laws often rely on vague concepts that should not be addressed through criminal law.

Legislation targeting fake news has proved problematic in Turkey, Ma-

laysia and Singapore, Maldonado said. Counterterrorism laws in Africa’s Sahel region “are used against the political opposition” and journalists covering armed conflicts there. Citing the example of Russia, he warned that the use of the term “foreign agents” to restrict journalism is spreading across the Americas.

Many government officials fuel hate campaigns and there is a need to regulate the excessive power of digital platform owners and give civil society a greater voice in that process, Maldonado said.

In Campeche, the state Human Rights

Commission and activists are promoting legislation to protect human-rights defenders and journalists.

Meanwhile, in the building that once housed the Tribuna newsroom, boxed-up computers sit waiting to be sold, offices stay empty and printing presses stand idle. Only a TV studio is still active.

González’s shooting of his weekly political commentary video show continues. And so do the lawsuits from government officials against journalists. (AP)

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
Magistrate’s Court
Gray’s Farm
St. John’s
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
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Antigua

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REGISTERED AS “TIDES&TALESBEACH HUB”

I, KIMSHAW CHARLES, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor License Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street, St. John’s Antigua on Monday 5th October, 2026 next ensuing for a tavern license in respect of premises known as “TIDES & TALES BEACH HUB” situated CARBBE HILL BEACH, in the Parish of St Mary’s, Antigua pursuant to section (11) (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated 25th day of August, 2026
Kimshaw Charles
268-773-3350

Journalist ascends to throne in Uganda kingdom after succession dispute

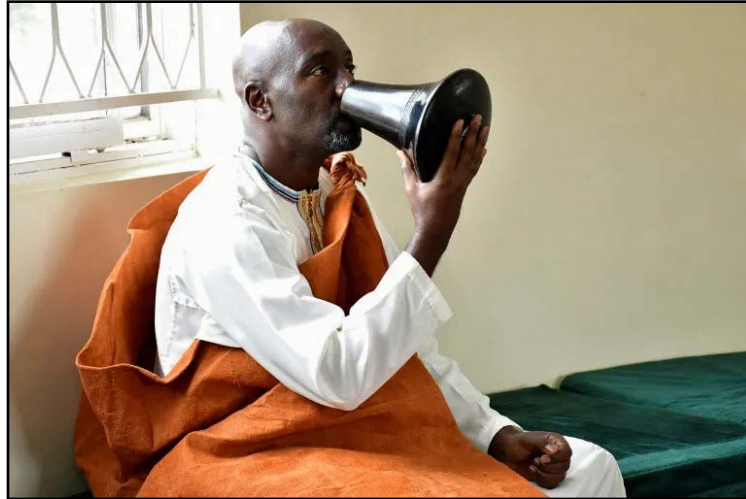
A journalist has been crowned king of Uganda's Tooro Kingdom, becoming the 13th monarch of the Batooro people in a ceremony marking the end of a succession dispute.

Edward Rukidi Kijanangoma succeeded King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, whose death last month from cancer at age 34 triggered a feud after his mother said a previously undisclosed son was entitled to the throne.

Uganda is a constitutional republic governed by an elected president, but four pre-colonial kingdoms remain influential symbols of identity and heritage despite not having political power.

A 21-member committee from the royal Babiito clan selected Kijanangoma, 56, who is Oyo Nyimba's cousin.

Kijanangoma took the



royal name Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I in a traditional ceremony that included the slaughter of a bull and sprinkling of a hen's blood in Tooro's capital, Fort Portal.

Nyabongo I walked to Karuziika Palace from midnight to 3am on Tuesday (21:00 GMT on Monday to 00:00 GMT on Tuesday) before taking part in a mock battle for the crown.

Former colleagues of Nyabongo I at the state broadcaster UBC, where

he worked as a news anchor and editor, described him as humble and down to earth.

The selection of Nyabongo I as king was widely contested because he wasn't in the direct line of succession, and the coronation took place despite

objections from Oyo Nyimba's mother, Best Kemigisa, and sister, Princess Ruth Komuntale.

They say the late king left behind a young son and a will naming him as his heir. The claim to the throne has led to increasing disquiet within the community on the selection of Nyabongo I.

The reason for Kemigisa's withholding of the identity of the heir remains unclear.

Critics said, however, that Oyo's alleged child would have to have been introduced to the kingdom's elders when his father was still alive to become a legitimate heir, if he even exists at all. (Al Jazeera English)

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NOTICE

Closure for Annual Stocktaking

Island Provision Food Distribution & Best Cellars Wines & Spirits will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday 30th September 2026** at 10:00am for **ANNUAL STOCKTAKING**. We will resume regular operating hours on Thursday 1st October 2026.

We **THANK YOU** for your continued support and offer our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience these closures may cause.

MANAGEMENT
Island Provision Group

US ban on Canadian alcohol and dairy takes effect as trade war drags on

A US ban on several Canadian imports, including alcohol, dairy and motorcycles, has come into effect as a trade war between the two neighbours drags on.

The latest measure by the Trump administration is in response to Canada's implementation of tariffs on a range of US goods earlier this month following a breakdown in trade talks.

Canada is not expected to retaliate further, with Prime Minister Mark Carney saying earlier this month that the impact the import bans will have on Canada's economy is "modest".

Trade talks remain on ice, with US trade representative Jamieson Greer telling CNBC recently that President Donald Trump is "comfortable" with his current relationship with Canada.

"They call us now and then and we have good conversations about potential deals. But there's no urgency on our side," Greer said of relations with Canada in an interview with the US network last week.

Tuesday's trade ban applies to nearly C\$1bn (\$710m; £530m) worth of Canadian liquor exported to the US, as well as whey products used in protein powder.

Motorcycle exports to the US will also be impacted, though Canada only sent about 5,000 motorcycles south of the border in 2025 that were worth about C\$120m, according to national data by Statistics Canada, meaning the impact would be limited.

The import bans were first announced by Trump in a series of executive orders signed on 8 September. In them, Trump said the measures are in response to "continued discrimination" by Canada on US dairy, automotives and alcohol.

Speaking to reports on Monday, he accused Canada of "treating the United States very unfairly".



"They have been one of the worst countries in the entire world," Trump said.

Carney said earlier this month that the bans "are relatively modest measures" when compared to other trade actions the US has imposed on Canada.

He acknowledged, however, that the bans will hurt certain businesses and sectors that are directly targeted.

Derek Holt, an economist with Canadian bank Scotiabank, wrote in an analysis that "these actions are face-saving by the US administration, not substantive in nature and that's a positive".

About 93% of all Canadian liquor exports in 2025 were sold to the US. Spirits Canada, a group representing Canadian liquor producers, has said the consequences to the industry "could be significant".

US liquor producers also warned of consequences, with the Distilled Spirits Council writing that the import ban "will ripple throughout the US hospitality sector" as businesses gear up for the holiday season.

Last week, dozens of American liquor producers penned an open letter to Trump urging him to resolve

the ongoing trade dispute with Canada with respect to alcohol.

Economists and businesses in Canada have also warned that the bans will add uncertainty to the future of country's trade relationship with the US, its largest trade partner.

In addition to these latest import bans, the US has imposed 50% tariffs on a range of Canadian goods, including dairy, alcohol, steel and aluminium products, as well as 25% tariffs on Canadian-built cars.

Canada in return has placed retaliatory tariffs ranging from 15% to 50% on more than 700 US products, as well as a 25% levy on certain steel and aluminium products. Most Canadian provinces have also stopped selling US liquor.

Tariffs - taxes paid on imported goods - are central to Trump's economic agenda, who argues that they raise government revenue and encourage consumers to buy American-made goods.

Economists, however, argue that they have raised prices of everyday goods for consumers and have disrupted the global economy. (BBC)



CIBC

Antigua

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Saturday, October 3, 2026

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

Package includes: T-shirt and light refreshments



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



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Sandals extend winning streak in Business Basketball League



The Sandals basketball team

Sandals extended their winning streak to seven games in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on Monday evening.

After losing their first encounter, Sandals claimed their seventh consecutive win by securing an 89-52 victory over the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) in the last game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 22 points, T-Shawn Lewis sank 17 points, and Adisa "Ras I" Harris scored 10 points for Sandals.

Raheem Charles converted 16 points, and Malique Ward scored 10 points

for SLBMC, who suffered their seventh defeat in eight games.

Last year's losing finalists, Richie's Shooterz, continued their winning start to their campaign, securing their fifth win in as many matches with a 113-43 drubbing of Christos in Monday's opening game.

Steven Matthew shot a game-high 34 points, Jaheem James sank 26 points, Sean Nicholas produced 23 points, and point guard Tavarus Benta scored 20 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Javon Simon converted 17 points for Christos, who remains the only one of the 13 competing teams without a win after crashing to their sixth defeat in as many games.

APCMOL returned to winning form, recording their fifth win in seven games with a 105-57 drubbing of the Philippines in Monday's second encounter.

Takeem Martin shot a game-high 31 points, Akeem Davis sank 18 points, Amare Browne converted 17 points, and Olivee Morris scored 16 points for APCMOL.

T. Macawila Raffie Salandino converted 14 points, Tyndale Telemaque sank 13 points, and Jeffrey Pangobian scored 10 points for the Philippines, who lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Arjune backs Windies to challenge for home Over-40s World Cup glory

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Former Guyana opening batsman Krishna Arjune believes West Indies can be crowned champions at the International Masters Cricket (IMC) Over-40s World Cup, which Guyana will host from October 17-31.

Arjune said the squad looks balanced and the presence of a plethora of former West Indies players has given him confidence that they could be the champion unit.

“I like the side especially with so many established players in the squad; glad to see Ramnaresh Sarwan who had done well for both Guyana and West Indies,” said Arjune, who appeared in 40 first-class matches. “These guys will bring a lot of experience, and that will be important.”

The West Indies will be captained by former multi-format West Indies player Denesh Ramdin, and Arjune expects him to lead from the front.

“He was an excellent captain for his country, Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies, so with a good all-round squad I know he will lead from the front,” Arjune declared.



The West Indies will begin their campaign against Australia at the National Stadium, Providence. They have been placed in Group A alongside Wales, Canada, Colombia, Namibia, Sri Lanka, and reigning champions South Africa.

Group B comprises New Zealand, Scotland, Pakistan, USA, India, England, Rest of the World X1, and Rest of the Caribbean X1.

Sewnarine Chattergoon, Jason Mohammed, Rayad Emrit and Devendra Bishoo are among the other players in the West Indies squad who have represented the region in both Test and

abbreviated formats.

Arjune added that the regional side must make the most of home advantage.

“Yes, this is a big way for them to utilise home conditions and that is a huge plus for West Indies as well,” he said.

“I understand they will play matches across Guyana, so that is even better because most of the guys played enough cricket in Guyana to know these conditions.”

In addition to Providence, matches will be hosted at Albion, Bourda, Malteenoes, Police Sports Club, Eve Leary, Anna Regina Stadium, Joe Jagmohan Hampton Court, Enmore, and Lusignan.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals, while the grand finale is slated for the National Stadium, Providence.

This historic second edition of the global event is being run by IMC in collaboration with the Cricket West Indies Masters Association. South Africa are the reigning champions after defeating New Zealand in the 2024 final in Cape Town.

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Sports News

Man City guilty of almost all the 115 financial breaches, Premier League says in explosive verdict



The club logo decorates a corner flag before the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Newcastle United at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England, Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018. (AP)

Manchester City has been found guilty of almost all of the more than 100 charges of financial wrongdoing, the Premier League confirmed on Tuesday, in one of the biggest scandals in English soccer history.

Man City, the most successful team in England for the past 15 years and the current Premier League leader, now faces severe sanctions that could include a huge points deduction or even expulsion from the Premier League, causing huge reputational damage to its Abu Dhabi ownership.

The explosive verdict by an independent commission “details how the club systematically broke Premier League rules for nearly a decade,” Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said in a case that was initiated by the competition more than three years ago and first arose in 2018 from leaked club emails and documents.

Man City was accused of a raft of financial violations from 2009-18 — a period when the northwest club, long in the shadow of great rival Manchester United, was transforming itself into

a record-breaking global superpower that has won multiple Premier League titles and the Champions League.

The violations included failing to provide accurate financial information and submitting inflated figures for sponsorship deals out of Abu Dhabi, hiding payments that supplemented salaries of managers and players, and breaching financial rules established by the Premier League and UEFA, European soccer’s governing body, aiming to keep clubs financially stable by not spending beyond their means.

On top of that, City faced many other charges of failing to cooperate with the investigation between 2018-23.

“An independent commission has found Manchester City guilty of all charges related to serious breaches of the Premier League’s financial rules over a nine-season period,” the league said, “and the majority of charges in relation to its failure to co-operate with the league’s investigation.”

Regarding the sponsorship deals, the league said, “Manchester City arranged ‘sham’ contracts (which misrepresent-

ed the true agreement between the parties) with a number of its commercial partners, as well as relying on ‘sham’ agreements with others, to artificially inflate the club’s revenues and reduce its costs.”

“The club,” the league added, “filed misstated accounts and concealed the true state of its finances from its auditors and football regulators.”

The verdict essentially finds that City’s dominance of the English game — delivered by its expensively assembled, star-studded squads that have been curated over the past two decades — was built on a foundation of deceit and cover-ups.

It is set to bring chaos to English soccer in general, triggering a slew of lawsuits from rival clubs calling for compensation for having been impacted by City’s actions.

There’s also the question of whether City’s top stars, like Erling Haaland and Rayan Cherki, will stay at the club and what the future holds for Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

He is the deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates and a member of Abu Dhabi’s royal family who bought City in 2008 and has gone on to own a group of worldwide teams — under the City Football Group banner — including New York City FC and Melbourne City.

City has always protested its innocence in the case, saying in 2023 when the charges were laid that there was a “comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence that exists in support of its position.”

Even over the weekend, City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak said there remained a “confidence and intent in proving the club’s innocence.”

Man City is set to appeal against the verdict. Any appeal could end up in the High Court in London if City feels the process in the case was unfair and/or impartial.

Tigst Assefa 'completely destroyed' her Achilles chasing world record

BERLIN (AP) — Berlin Marathon winner Tigst Assefa “completely destroyed” her right Achilles tendon trying to regain her world record.

Assefa was on well on course to beat Ruth Chepngetich's world record with 2 kilometers remaining in Sunday's race when she suddenly began limping with what appeared to be cramps.

She grimaced and kept running in visible pain before ultimately finishing 68 seconds behind Chepngetich's mark of 2:09:56 from Chicago in 2024.

It transpired Assefa suffered a “complete rupture of the right Achilles tendon,” her representative Gianni Demadonna told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Demadonna said the Ethiopian runner had been in pain from the 31st kilometer but decided to continue running before the injury struck at the 40K mark.

“She was no longer able to run, because when she was going to put her foot on the ground she had no power,” Demadonna said.

“She completely destroyed the tendon at the end, because running without the tendon — I mean the last 500 meters maybe she ran without the tendon, you know, only with the heel, so that was a disaster because maybe (if) she had stopped, (it) was not so bad, but she ran 2 kilometers with the problem.”

The 29-year-old Assefa still ran the third fastest time ever in 2:11:04. It's her third victory in Berlin after 2022 and 2023, but she had been pushing for another world record after her record time of 2:11:53 in 2023.

Chepngetich lowered that mark by nearly two minutes the following



Ethiopia's Tigist Assefa is lead away by former runner Haile Gebrselassie, left, and a medical after winning the Berlin Marathon in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026. (AP)

year, but was banned for three years in 2025 after admitting a doping violation. The Kenyan runner's record still stands. Assefa was on course to smash Chepngetich's record on Sunday.

“She was on to run 2:09:30, 2:09:40, so that was the goal, and she still had 8 minutes (to run) the last 2.2 kilometers. That is amazing,” Demadonna said.

Assefa collapsed after crossing the line and was attended to by a medic as well as compatriot and marathon great Haile Gebrselassie, among others.

She skipped the post-race formalities and was flown to Munich before undergoing what Demadonna called “very complex surgery” on her ankle on Monday at a hospital in Murnau, a town near the Austrian border southwest of Munich.

Demadonna, who was on his way back home to Italy after leaving Assefa in the hospital, said she will see another doctor in Munich on Thursday to see how the surgery went and to start her rehabilitation.

He said she will need to use crutches for around six weeks by which time she will have started exercises for movement of the tendon.

“After starting walking and bicycle, maybe (she can) start running in three months, so I think seven months to compete in another marathon, maybe London Marathon 2027 at the end of April, but difficult to say now,” Demadonna said. “We have to stay patient and see what the doctor will say.”

He added that Assefa “is very sad, but what can we do? She knows that it's a long way to recover, but the doctor said, ‘don't worry, you can recover.’ So we will see.”

West Indies seek to rebound in second ODI in India

Host India will aim to extend their dominance as the West Indies, eyeing a first bilateral One-Day International (ODI) win in India in 24 years, seeks a fresh start after a mixed showing in the first ODI in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday.

Long before Barsapara had floodlights, before the city had learned the vocabulary of international cricket, Guwahati had its gods, its hills, and its river.

Kamakhya still looks down from Nilachal, Umananda sits improbably in the Brahmaputra, and the river continues its immense journey past them all. A day of cricket arrives here on Wednesday when India and the West Indies descend for the second ODI.

These two nations in an ODI fixture has twice marked a milestone in Guwahati's cricket history.

In 1983, Nehru Stadium hosted the city's first international match, marking Guwahati's debut as an international cricket venue. India had just won the World Cup, but the West Indies was still the game's sovereign.

Antiguan Sir Richie Richardson made his ODI debut that day, entering a cricket world in which Caribbean supremacy remained largely unquestioned.

Thirty-five years later, in 2018, the city had acquired a new home for international cricket. Barsapara, the modern successor, hosted its first ODI. India had become a white-ball powerhouse, and Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma scored centuries as the host chased down 323. The West Indies, once the team everyone else sought to catch, was now trying to keep pace.

Guwahati is now an IPL venue, another marker of its growing place in Indian cricket. India sits atop the ODI rankings. The West Indies, however, has missed direct qualification for the 2027 World Cup and must play the qualifiers



West Indies batsman Justin Greaves celebrates after reaching his maiden One-Day International century against India in the first ODI in Thiruvananthapuram, India, on Sunday, September 27, 2026. Greaves has been ruled out of the second ODI due to a calf injury he picked up in the first ODI. (Getty Images)

for a third successive time.

Denied the ideal start in Thiruvananthapuram, the West Indies will look to recover here and keep alive their bid to end a 24-year wait for a bilateral ODI series win in India.

There were signs of promise in Thiruvananthapuram. Justin Greaves and John Campbell, the West Indies' fourth different opening combination in their last five ODIs, put together a 135-run stand.

Greaves scored his maiden ODI century, while Campbell and Amir Jangoo made half-centuries. The bowling and fielding, however, need inspiration.

The West Indies will have to replace Greaves after the Barbadian all-rounder was ruled out of the second ODI due to a calf injury he picked up in Sunday's opening encounter.

In his absence, Antiguan teenager Jewel Andrew could be pushed up the order to open the innings with John Campbell. Sherfane Rutherford, who had missed the opening game due to per-

sonal reasons, is likely to slot into the middle-order.

The West Indies lost the opening ODI by eight wickets. They had scored 295 for seven in their 50 overs but India hardly broke a sweat in chasing down the target in 41.4 overs.

There is a certain ease to a team that knows where it stands. India seems to have it. Shubman Gill is the world's top-ranked ODI batter and is in sublime form. Kohli looks liberated. There is a new aggression to his batting, an almost extravagant intent.

Kuldeep Yadav's return to the playing XI and his rhythm with the ball offered a timely reminder of his quality ahead of next year's World Cup. Prasidh Krishna spoke of clarity within the team. India's decision to forgo practice on Tuesday seemed another expression of that assurance.

The third ODI is scheduled to be held on October 3. The two teams will then play a five-match T20I series, starting October 6.