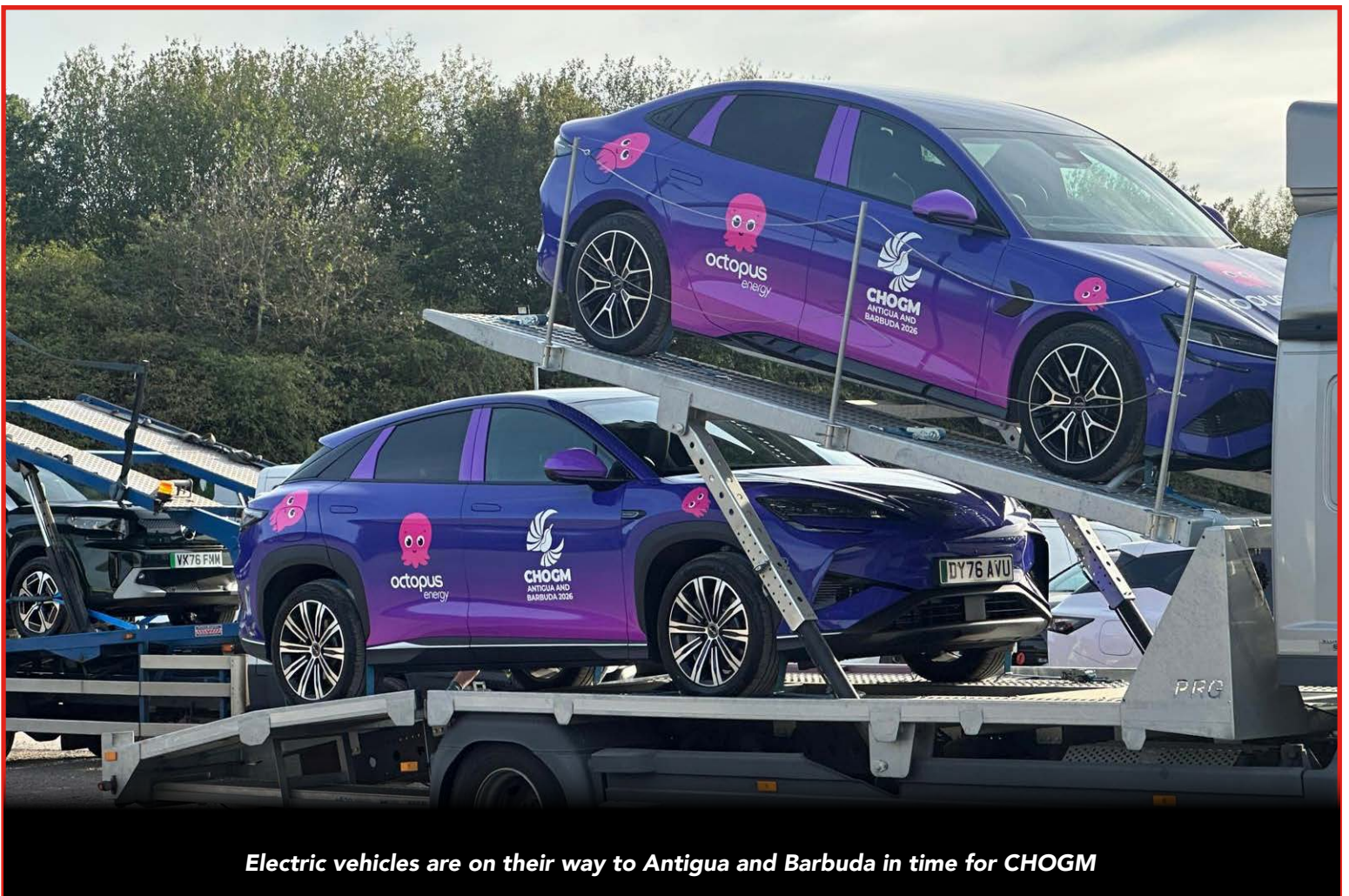


A Fleet of Electric Vehicles Is Heading To A&B For CHOGM

Story on page 2



Electric vehicles are on their way to Antigua and Barbuda in time for CHOGM

A Fleet of Electric Vehicles Is Heading To A&B For CHOGM

Antigua and Barbuda's partnership with Octopus Energy is moving from commitment to practical delivery, with a fleet of electric vehicles now en route to the country for use during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), from 1–4 November 2026.

The vehicles, being provided with the support of Octopus Energy, will form part of the official transportation arrangements for Heads of Government and other delegates attending CHOGM. Their deployment will help reduce the use of conventional petrol- and diesel-powered vehicles and contribute to lowering the transport-related carbon footprint of the international meeting.

The initiative represents the first tangible deliverable under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in New York by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Zoisa North-Bond, CEO of Octopus Energy Generation.

The partnership is designed to support Antigua and Barbuda's transition towards a cleaner, more affordable and resilient energy future, with cooperation focused on electric mobility, renewable energy, battery storage and smart-energy technologies.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the arrival of the vehicles is also an important demonstration that the country's international advocacy on climate change is being matched by practical action at home.

As a Small Island Developing State on the front lines of the climate crisis, Antigua and Barbuda has consistently maintained that meaningful climate leadership requires countries to translate commitments into action and pursue solutions that strengthen sustainability, resilience and energy




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security.

Prime Minister Browne welcomed the progress being made under the partnership.

“Antigua and Barbuda has consistently argued that climate leadership must be demonstrated through action. As we welcome Commonwealth leaders to our shores, we are equally conscious of our responsibility to host CHOGM in a manner that reflects the values and priorities we continue to champion internationally.

“International meetings of this scale must increasingly be organised in ways that reduce their environmental impact. By incorporating electric vehicles into the official transportation programme for CHOGM, Antigua and Barbuda is leading by example and demonstrating that sustainability can be integrated into the delivery of major international events.

“For Small Island Developing States, electric mobility is about much more than replacing one type of vehicle with another. It is part of reducing our dependence on imported fossil fuels, strengthening energy security, improving air quality and building a more resilient economy.

“This partnership with Octopus Energy demonstrates what can be achieved when international cooper-

ation is translated into practical results that benefit our people.”

CHOGM 2026 will bring together leaders, ministers and representatives from across the 56-member Commonwealth under the theme, “Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth.”

As host country, Antigua and Barbuda is seeking to ensure that CHOGM delivers not only a successful diplomatic programme, but also demonstrates how major international gatherings can embrace more sustainable practices.

The deployment of electric vehicles during CHOGM complements the Government’s broader efforts to modernise the national transportation sector and accelerate the transition towards cleaner energy. Antigua and Barbuda has already begun introducing electric vehicles into public transportation and essential public services while developing the technical expertise and charging infrastructure required to support wider adoption.

Zoisa North-Bond, CEO of Octopus Energy Generation, welcomed the implementation of the first phase of the partnership.

“We are proud to support Antigua and Barbuda as it prepares to host Commonwealth leaders from around

the world. This initiative shows how clean technology can be incorporated into major international events while creating momentum for longer-term national transformation.

“Antigua and Barbuda is demonstrating real leadership by connecting electric mobility with renewable energy, resilience and greater energy independence. We look forward to continuing our work with the Government and helping turn this shared ambition into practical results.”

Following CHOGM, the Government and Octopus Energy will continue discussions on the potential longer-term use of the vehicles and other areas of cooperation envisaged under the partnership.

The initiative was developed with the support and coordination of Global Citizen following engagements involving Prime Minister Browne and Octopus Energy during New York Climate Week and the United Nations General Assembly.

The Government views the initiative as more than a transportation solution for CHOGM. It demonstrates how hosting a major international event can be used to advance national development priorities, attract partnerships and create a lasting legacy for the host country.

Minister Greene Challenges CHOGM Task Force Members to Work as a Team, Not As Silos



Members of the National CHOGM Task Force convened a simulation exercise at the headquarters of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force on Tuesday as planning for the important Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting accelerates with just over twenty days to go before the event starts.

In his opening remarks, Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Task Force, E.P. Chet Greene, used the opportunity to underscore the importance of the exercise now that the meeting is just days away.

“From the 1st to the 4th of November, 2026, we will host Commonwealth Heads of Government. History will be written in those four days. And the question that will determine whether we succeed is not what happens on those four days – it is what we do today and in the weeks to come, to prepare for them,” he stated.

He added that the simulation was designed as the Task Force’s rehearsal, and that rehearsals are where championships are won.

Minister Greene described CHOGM as ‘a living, breathing, complex or-



ganism’ with many attendant parts; all of which are interconnected to form a whole.

“Every one of these functions can make or break those four days. A misrouted motorcade, a collapsed Wi-Fi network, a protocol error at a bilateral meeting, a medical emergency mishandled – any one of these can dominate the headline and undermine our several months of preparation,” the minister cautioned.

He told the Task Force members that

if they were present in the room, then they were a critical part of CHOGM 2026. “Not a supporting actor. Not a bystander. You are a lead.”

The Task Force chair also urged the members to take ‘ownership’ of their respect areas of responsibility who must be fully knowledgeable about their specific task and be able to answer any question related to it.

The minister also used the analogy of a ‘chain’ emphasizing that each lead must see themselves as a critical



link that makes up the chain and not to operate as 'silos' in isolation from the other areas; teamwork, therefore must be emphasized above everything else.

He also reminded the members that the simulation as not a performance review, rather, it was an opportunity for everyone to be honest about their respective areas and to seek assistance from the rest of the team if that

was required.

He also sought to dispel the view that the simulation was a security-only event, rather it involved all the critical areas of the task force. "I say this because too often, when we think of a major summit, the instinct is to hand the entire agenda to the security apparatus and let everyone else wait in the corridors. That instinct is wrong. Security is the foun-

dation – essential, non-negotiable – but a foundation is not a house," he observed.

The Task Force members spent the rest of the day going through in minute detail all the activities planned for Day 1 of the meeting and they will reconvene early next week to go through the other three days in similar fashion.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99

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



IHO Leads Commonwealth Civil Society Mobilisation Ahead of 2026 Commonwealth Women's Forum

Women's organisations, women's rights advocates and civil society organisations (CSOs) across the Commonwealth are being called upon to join a vital upcoming virtual pre-convening meeting series to mobilise Commonwealth civil society ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) in November. Antigua and Barbuda-based nonprofit organisation, Integrated Health Outreach (IHO), has announced the three-part series and launched online [registration](#).

The Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) is one of several official stakeholder gatherings held alongside the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The 2026 CHOGM is happening in Antigua and Barbuda, and so too is the 2026 Women's Forum. According to IHO, the virtual sessions, scheduled for October 9th, 13th, 14th and 23rd, aim to gather the Commonwealth's women's organisations, youth networks, community groups, and indigenous peoples' organisations to collectively shape policy recommendations on critical issues related to women's rights. These include key issues like violence against women and girls, women's economic empowerment, and women in leadership.

In the upcoming [virtual pre-convening series](#), IHO will guide participants through the process of drafting, refining, and adopting a formal joint civil society statement. This will be used directly to influence and inform high-level policymakers at the Women's Forum, which itself will inform policymakers at the 2026 CHOGM. The three-part virtual series will be hosted on Zoom. Participants are strongly encouraged to participate in all three sessions.

SESSION 1

Date/Time: October 9, 2026 | 7:00



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO ATTEND

Commonwealth Women's Forum 2026

2-4 November 2026
St John's, Antigua and Barbuda




COMMONWEALTH
WOMEN'S FORUM

CHOGM
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

AM – 9:00 AM Atlantic Standard Time (AST)

Theme: Exploring the purpose of the Commonwealth Women's Forum in addressing women's rights and identifying how civil society can strategically contribute.

SESSION 2 (*Repeated at two alternative times for global accessibility*)

Date/Time for Session 2A: October 13, 2026 | 6 – 8 PM AST / 10 PM – 12 AM GMT

Date/Time for Session 2B: October 14, 2026 | 7 – 9 AM AST / 11:00 AM –

1:00 PM GMT

Theme: Collaborating interactively to develop specific recommendations for women's rights to be drafted into the official civil society statement.

SESSION 3

Date/Time: October 23, 2026 | 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM AST

Theme: Reviewing and formally adopting the final civil society statement, alongside a final briefing on operational details ahead of the Forum.

Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/99bv5srz>



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GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION



VISA-FREE ENTRY AND EXTENSION OF STAY FOR NATIONALS OF CUBA AND CHINA

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1 VISA-FREE ENTRY — VISITORS



Cuban and Chinese nationals may enter Antigua and Barbuda without an entry visa for a maximum stay of 30 days as visitors.

- The 30-day visa-free provision is for visits that do not exceed 30 days.
- If you know before travelling that you will stay longer than 30 days, obtain the appropriate visa before travel (where required).
- Visa-free entry does not create an automatic right to remain beyond 30 days.
- All visitors are subject to normal immigration examination and admissibility requirements at the Port of Entry.

3 LEGALLY RESIDENT PERSONS



A Cuban or Chinese national who is legally resident in Antigua and Barbuda may re-enter without an entry visa.

Valid status

Landed in accordance with the validity of your status (e.g. Work Permit).

Example: A Cuban national arrives with a Work Permit valid until 20 April 2027. He may be landed until 20 April 2027 without an entry visa.

Expired status

May be granted 30 days to regularize your status, subject to the circumstances of the case.

5 JRCC / SECURITY SCREENING



Your information will be submitted to the Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) and/or other relevant security authorities for background checks. The outcome, together with your stated grounds and documents, will be considered before a decision is made.

6 DECISION ON EXTENSION

If Approved

- You will be notified.
- Pay any applicable arrears.
- Pay Change of Status fee (EC\$1,500) where applicable.
- Pay extension fee (EC\$300).
- You will then be granted the approved extension.

If Refused

- You will be notified.
- You will be given an opportunity to depart Antigua and Barbuda voluntarily within the period specified.
- Failure to depart may result in enforcement/removal action in accordance with the law.

2 OTHER ENTRY OPTIONS

You may also be admitted under the following arrangements, where applicable:



Antigua and Barbuda Electronic Visa

May be granted the period authorized by the e-Visa, up to 90 days where applicable.



Qualifying Third-Country Visa/Residence

Holders of a valid US, UK, Canadian or Schengen visa/residence may be considered for a Visa on Arrival for an initial maximum stay of 30 days.



Visa on Arrival Fee US\$100 / EC\$260

4 EXTENSION OF STAY BEYOND 30 DAYS



If you have lawfully entered Antigua and Barbuda under the visa-free arrangement, you do not need a new entry visa to apply for an extension.



You must apply before your authorized stay expires and receive approval to remain beyond 30 days. This is not automatic.

THE EXTENSION PROCESS

- Make an appointment with the Department of Immigration.
- Appear personally for processing.
- Submit required documents and state the grounds.
- Attend an interview with an Immigration Officer.
- Undergo background/security checks.



You may be given a return date while the checks are completed.

7 OVERSTAY



Remaining beyond the authorized period without an approved extension is a breach of the conditions of your stay and may result in penalties, arrears, enforcement or removal proceedings.

Submitting an extension application does not, by itself, authorize continued stay.



CURRENT FEES

Service	Fee
Visa on Arrival	US\$100/EC\$260
Change of Status	EC\$1,500
Extension of Stay	EC\$300
Arrears/Overstay	As prescribed

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ENTRY CRITERIA

- Open to Antiguan and Barbudan nationals at home and abroad of all ages.
- Use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited
- Each participant may submit one logo via email to Performingartscompetition@ab.gov.ag
- Submissions must include the final logo in PNG and PDF formats-in both full-color and black-and-white (monochrome) versions-along with the editable source file.
- Include a short description explaining your design concept and how it reflects the theme *Bring our culture, Shape our identity*

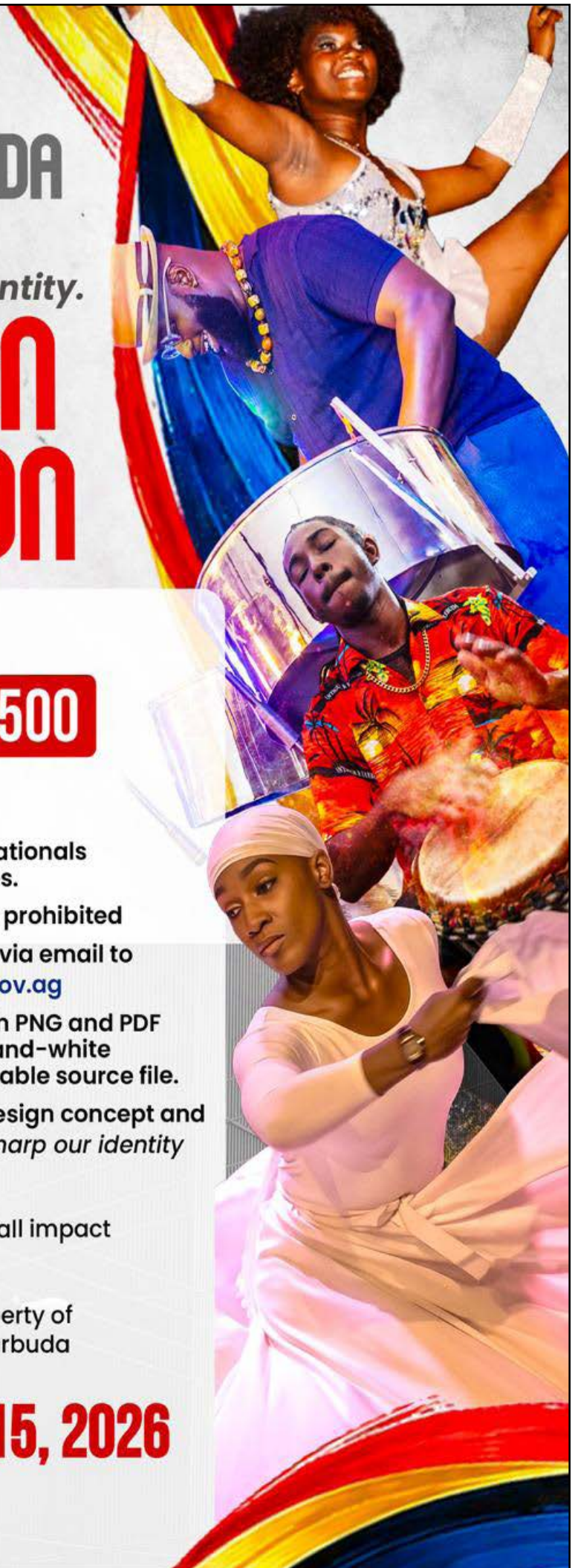
JUDGING

Creativity, Relevance, Clarity and Overall impact

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The Government of Antigua and Barbuda

SUBMIT BY OCTOBER 15, 2026



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez Unanimously Elected CTO Chairman



More than 15 years after Antigua and Barbuda last held the chairmanship, Tourism Minister Charles “Max” Fernandez has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization’s (CTO) Council of Ministers and Commissioners of Tourism.

The election places Antigua and Barbuda at the helm of the Caribbean’s principal tourism development organisation at a critical time for the region’s tourism industry.

Minister Fernandez was nominated during the CTO’s Annual General Meeting by Anguilla’s Minister of Tourism, Cardigan Connor, with the nomination seconded by Jamaica’s Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett. He was subsequently unanimously elected by his regional counterparts, succeeding Barbados’ Minister of

Tourism and International Transport, Ian Gooding-Edghill.

The leadership change will also see Colin C. James, Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, assume the chairmanship of the CTO Board of Directors, giving Antigua and Barbuda an expanded leadership role within the regional organisation.

Mr. Fernandez described the appointment as both an honour for Antigua and Barbuda and a responsibility to the wider Caribbean.

“This is not simply an Antigua and Barbuda moment; it is a Caribbean responsibility,” he said.

“Tourism remains the economic lifeblood of so many of our countries and territories, and at a time of tremendous global change, our responsibility is to ensure that this industry remains competitive, resilient, inclusive and, above all, beneficial to the people of the Caribbean.”

Among the priorities identified by the incoming chairman is advancing women into leadership positions at every level of the tourism industry and investing more heavily in the next generation of Caribbean tourism professionals.

Climate resilience and sustainable growth will also feature prominently on his agenda, alongside improved intra-regional connectivity, stronger regional marketing collaboration, hu-

man capital development, innovation and technology, and deeper strategic partnerships.

The incoming CTO Chairman is also expected to champion greater cooperation among Caribbean destinations in marketing the region internationally.

Minister Fernandez’s election represents another significant milestone in his involvement in Caribbean tourism. He was named Caribbean Tourism Minister of the Year for 2020/2021, receiving regional recognition for his leadership during one of the most challenging periods for the tourism sector.

His election comes as he participates in the 2026 State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIC) in Georgetown, Guyana, being held under the theme “Tourism Futures: Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive.”

Ahead of the formal conference, Minister Charles Fernandez participated in CTO Council of Ministers meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

He was also among the featured tourism leaders at the inaugural Future Leaders Forum, where he engaged students and emerging tourism professionals on the future direction of the Caribbean industry.

The Antiguan and Barbudan Minister of Tourism is also expected to participate in the launch of SeaSuite Magazine, a CTO publication highlighting women making their mark across Caribbean tourism.



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Antigua and Barbuda Ranked In Conde Nast Traveler's 2026 2026 Reader's Choice Awards

Condé Nast Traveler has announced the results of its annual Readers' Choice Awards, with Antigua and Barbuda recognized as the #7 Island in the Caribbean & The Atlantic

Condé Nast Traveler received more than 757,000 survey responses from readers across the United States rating their travel experiences across the globe to offer a comprehensive look at the places they eagerly anticipate revisiting. The Readers' Choice Awards, with their unparalleled legacy as the travel industry's longest running and most prestigious accolades from its readers, remain the ultimate symbol and acknowledgment of excellence within the travel sector.

Antigua and Barbuda's recognition among the Caribbean's top islands highlights the destination's enduring appeal, from its renowned beaches and sailing heritage to its rich history, vibrant culture, culinary experiences, and distinctive island experiences.

"We are delighted to see Antigua and Barbuda recognized as the #7 Island in the Caribbean & The Atlantic in Condé Nast Traveler's 2026 Readers' Choice Awards," said Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

"This recognition is a testament to the experiences that continue to draw



The view from Shirley Heights Lookout, highlighting the natural beauty that continues to captivate travellers worldwide. (photo courtesy of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

travellers

to our shores and to the people across our tourism industry who work tirelessly to make every visit memorable. While our 365 beaches remain an iconic part of our appeal, Antigua and Barbuda offers so much more to discover, and we are proud to see that depth and diversity recognized on the world stage."

Antigua and Barbuda offers a Caribbean experience shaped by natu-

ral beauty, heritage, culture and discovery. Antigua combines its famous beaches with world-class sailing, vibrant culinary experiences, historic sites and a dynamic calendar of events, while Barbuda offers a tranquil escape defined by pink sand beaches, pristine landscapes, and extraordinary natural beauty.

The 2026 Readers' Choice Awards are published on Condé Nast Traveler's website at cntraveler.com/rca and celebrated in the November issue.

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DeVry University, ABHTA and Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce Launch AI-Focused Professional Development Courses

Partnership expands access to AI-driven education and workforce readiness in Antigua and Barbuda

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA), in partnership with DeVry University and the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce, has announced the launch of two professional development courses designed to help employees, managers and business leaders build practical skills in artificial intelligence (AI) and prepare for a rapidly changing workplace.

DeVry University is a U.S.-based university with a 95-year history of providing career-focused education designed to meet the evolving needs of the workplace. Through DeVryPro, its innovative learning platform, DeVry helps individuals and organisations upskill and re-skill as AI reshapes industries and roles.

The launch follows World Tourism Day, celebrated Sept. 27 under the 2026 theme, “Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism.” The theme focuses on the role of AI in changing how travelers choose destinations, how tourism businesses operate and how visitor experiences are designed. It also calls for greater investment in digital skills and wider access to technology so workers, busi-



nesses and destinations can participate meaningfully in tourism’s digital future.

For the ABHTA, this partnership moves the conversation around AI beyond understanding the technology to equipping people with the skills and confidence to use it effectively and responsibly in the workplace.

“Artificial Intelligence is no longer something that we can view as being in the distant future. It is here, it is already changing how we work, and we have to ensure that our people are prepared to take advantage of the opportunities it presents,” said Patrice Simon, Executive Director of the ABHTA. “The World Tourism Day theme could not be more timely. If we are serious about redesigning tourism and remaining

competitive as a destination, then we must invest in our people. Technology will continue to evolve, but our greatest investment must remain in developing the skills of the people who will use that technology to improve our businesses, our productivity and ultimately the visitor experience.”

Two courses designed for today’s workplace

The first course, AI for All, is designed to build practical, real-world AI skills and requires no technical or coding experience. Learners will explore AI fundamentals, develop stronger prompting skills, use AI to improve everyday productivity, turn data into insights, explore practical automation and consider issues related to accuracy, privacy, bias and ethics.

The programme includes hands-on exposure to tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Claude and Gemini.

The second course, Finance Essentials for Managers with AI, is aimed at managers and professionals who want to strengthen their financial confidence while learning how AI can support financial analysis, planning and decision-making. Learners will develop skills in reading financial statements, building budgets and forecasts, communicating financial insights, managing financial risk and applying AI to financial workflows.

Both courses are offered on demand, providing working professionals with the flexibility to balance their studies with work and other commitments. Learners can complete the courses in up to five weeks at their own pace.

Upon successful completion, participants will earn a DeVryPro certificate of completion, a recognised credential reflecting skills they can apply immediately in the workplace.

Businesses are also encouraged to incorporate the programmes into their employee development plans. Organisations registering multiple employees can benefit from tuition savings, providing an opportunity to build AI capabilities across teams.

Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority appointed to ACI-LAC Governing Board for 2026 – 2027



The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) has been appointed to the Governing Board of the Airports Council International – Latin America and the Caribbean (ACI-LAC) for the 2026–2027 term.

The appointment was announced during the ACI-LAC/ACI World Annual General Assembly, Conference and Exhibition, held recently in Lima, Peru. Antigua and Barbuda was represented at the international aviation gathering by ABAA Chief Executive Officer Kurt A.G. Menal.

The appointment provides the ABAA with an enhanced platform to participate in regional discussions on the development and future of the airport

industry. It will facilitate greater engagement with airport operators, aviation authorities and industry stakeholders across Latin America and the Caribbean, while providing opportunities for the exchange of expertise, best practices and technical knowledge.

For Antigua and Barbuda, representation on the ACI-LAC Governing Board strengthens the country's voice in regional aviation affairs and provides an opportunity to advance matters of importance to its air transport sector. It also creates opportunities to develop partnerships and identify initiatives in areas such as airport infrastructure, operational efficiency, safety and security, sustainability, technology, passen-

ger experience and connectivity.

The appointment is particularly significant given the importance of aviation to Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry and wider economy. A strong and competitive airport sector is essential to maintaining international connectivity, supporting tourism growth and facilitating business and investment.

ACI-LAC is ACI's regional organisation for Latin America and the Caribbean. It represents airports throughout the region and provides members with opportunities for advocacy, professional development, training, technical cooperation and the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

ACI-LAC also provides a platform for airports to collaborate on key issues affecting the region, including aviation safety and security, infrastructure development, sustainability, airport operations, technology, passenger facilitation and air connectivity.

The ABAA's appointment to the Governing Board for 2026 - 2027 strengthens Antigua and Barbuda's engagement with the regional and international airport community and positions the Authority to contribute to discussions that will help shape the future of aviation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Cancer Symposium Builds on Legacy, Expands Conversation to the Community

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) recently concluded its 2026 Multi-disciplinary Cancer Symposium, continuing an initiative that has evolved from a breast cancer-focused event into a broader platform for professional education and community engagement around cancer care.

Building on the evolution of the Symposium into a multidisciplinary platform in 2025, this year's event took another step forward by adding a second day focused specifically on the community. The expansion reflects the Symposium's continued growth beyond professional education to include broader conversations around cancer care and the experience of living with cancer.

“Dr. Duncan (the late Medical Director at SLBMC) saw where this could go,” said Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis, Medical Director of SLBMC. “He understood that cancer care is bigger than any one specialty. It involves the people who diagnose and treat cancer, the professionals who support patients and families, and the families and community that live with the impact of the disease. It is meaningful to see the Symposium continuing to grow in the direction he envisioned.”

The first day of the 2026 Symposium, held under the theme “Beyond Boundar-

ies: Integrating Innovation, Evidence, and Empathy in Cancer Care,” was designed for healthcare professionals and provided opportunities for continuing medical education, with presentations and discussions covering current approaches and perspectives in cancer care.

The second day, “Beyond Boundaries: From Awareness to Action: Making Cancer Care Everyone’s Conversation,” opened the discussion to the wider community. The goal was to make conversations about cancer more accessible and encourage people to become more informed and engaged in their own health and the health of those around them.

For Christine Joseph, Chair of the Symposium Organizing Committee, that expansion was an important part of the event's continued development.

“Healthcare professionals continue to make the time to attend this Symposium because they see the value in staying current, sharing knowledge and learning from one another,” said Joseph. “But we also know that cancer care does not happen in isolation. It affects patients, families, caregivers and entire communities. Bringing the public into the Symposium gives us a chance to have conversations that are just as important as the clinical ones.”



Joseph added that community engagement will remain an important part of the Symposium going forward.

The Symposium's continued success would not be possible without the support of its partners and sponsors, many of whom have supported the initiative since its inception. SLBMC extends its sincere thanks to all organizations, businesses and individuals who continue to invest in the Symposium and in the broader goal of strengthening cancer care in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Medical Centre also recognizes the healthcare professionals who continue to register and participate each year. Their commitment to professional development and their willingness to keep learning, sharing and improving their practice are an important part of advancing cancer care locally.

This year's Symposium

booklet also featured scholarly contributions from healthcare professionals across Antigua and Barbuda and the wider region, including abstracts and an article exploring important aspects of cancer care and palliative medicine. These contributions reflect the growing body of local and regional knowledge and expertise being shared through the Symposium. SLBMC encourages healthcare professionals to continue contributing their research, clinical experiences and perspectives as the Symposium evolves.

As SLBMC looks ahead, the Medical Centre plans to continue developing the Symposium as both a professional education platform and a space for meaningful community engagement. The 2027 SLBMC Multidisciplinary Cancer Symposium is planned for the first weekend of October 2027, with further details to be announced.

CIBC Caribbean's 15th Annual Walk for the Cure – An Inspiring Success

With record breaking participation this year, CIBC Caribbean's 15th Annual Walk for the Cure has been assessed as an inspiring success.

Hundreds of participants, women, men, children, teens and cancer survivors all joined this annual walk to raise awareness of cancer and funds to support cancer care. The Walk moved off from the WIOC playing field and wound its way along Friars Hill Road, past Weatherill's to Marble Hill Road, then left just before the Chinese Embassy onto Friars Hill Road and ended at WIOC.

Head of Country, Priscilla

Leonce, thanked the participants sponsors for supporting this great initiative by CIBC Caribbean to raise the awareness of cancer and to support and celebrate our many survivors.

She noted that finding a cure for cancer should be a very personal cause for all because everyone knows at least one person who has died from cancer or is a survivor. In fact, CIBC itself has staff members who are either battling cancer, are survivors or have passed away.

Senior Walk Manager Natasha Charles added that participation in this 15th Annual CIBC Caribbean

an Walk for a Cure is important in terms of increasing awareness of the disease; raising funds for cancer care, showing support for cancer survivors; and remembering those who have passed.

She particularly thanked all of their sponsors and highlighted the top three Platinum Sponsors: the Barrett Group of Companies, A.S. Bryden and Cool and Smooth. The largest group of 96 participants came from A.S. Bryden.

This year once again, all the funds raised will be donated to the Oncology Department at Mount St. John Medical Centre and the Breast Friends Organisation.





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OCTOBER 2026



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RICHARDS
STADIUM



8:30 AM



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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 45TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

18

OCTOBER

Independence Church Service

Precision Center

4:00 PM

THURSDAY

22

OCTOBER

National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

8:30 AM

SUNDAY

25

OCTOBER

National Food Fair

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

10:00 AM

National Schools' Panorama

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

6:00 PM

MONDAY

26

OCTOBER

National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway

10:00 AM

National Independence Business Decor Competition

Starts: October 26

Ends: October 29

TUESDAY

27

OCTOBER

Voices in Harmony - Festival of Choirs

St. Anthony's Secondary School

8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

28

OCTOBER

Schools' Independence Programs

Schools Across the State

Island Treasures Gala - Golden Age

Casa Palmadita

THURSDAY

29

OCTOBER

Barbuda Day Activities

Evening of Theatre

St. Anthony's Secondary School

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

30

OCTOBER

Independence Calypso Competition

Green Lounge – Cedar Valley

8:00 PM

National Dress and Flag Day

SUNDAY

1

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Guyana Development Bank begins operations

The Guyana Development Bank has officially begun operations, with the Irfaan Ali administration describing the institution as a major step towards expanding access to financing for entrepreneurs and small businesses across the country.

The bank will provide up to \$3 million (One Guyana dollar=US\$0.008 cents) in zero-interest, zero-collateral financing, creating a new avenue for nationals seeking to establish or expand businesses.

President Ali said the bank is intended to address the financial barriers that have long prevented aspiring entrepreneurs, including young innovators, single mothers, farmers and skilled tradesmen, from accessing the resources needed to start or grow their enterprises.

“This is not a grant; this is your opportunity to earn, your opportunity to build your credit and your pathway to participate in our national expansion. The Guyana Development Bank is about much more than providing loans. It is being designed as a complete support ecosystem that helps businesses start, grow and succeed,” he noted.

In the 2026 national budget, the Government allocated an initial GUY\$20 billion capital injection, representing the first tranche of the bank’s GUY\$40 billion authorised share capital.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, said the bank’s launch is expected to unlock a new wave of entrepreneurial activity.

“As set out in our manifesto commitment to financial inclusion, this institution is about helping our citizens participate in the formal financial system. SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) play a critical role in creating and enhancing economic livelihoods, and supporting community-based economic development,” Singh said.

He said that efficiency will be central to the bank’s operations, with the institution expected to process viable applications in the shortest possible time



while keeping the process simple and free of unnecessary bureaucracy.

Singh said the allocation is not simply an injection of capital, but is intended to stimulate sustainable businesses and livelihoods across the country. He said the funding available through the bank is intended to help establish and expand small businesses, while creating a pathway for entrepreneurs to build sustainable enterprises and eventually graduate into the traditional financial system.

“This initiative is intended to achieve a completely new wave of entrepreneurial and productive activity in Guyana. And this initiative is intended to stimulate sustained livelihoods, sustainable and sustained business ventures across the length and breadth of our country.”

The finance minister said that the Guyana Development Bank could also play a significant role in reshaping Guyana’s private sector, pointing to the fact that many established companies began as small enterprises.

“The overwhelming majority of medium and large businesses that we see across Guyana and indeed across the world started as a small business. Every small idea has the potential to grow and become a big idea. And so this has the potential to completely transform

the private sector landscape,” he said.

Beyond financing, the bank will provide mentorship, training, coaching and capacity building to help entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses and become more competitive with Singh indicating that the Government’s support is intended to be a partnership, but ultimately, entrepreneurs must take responsibility for managing their businesses effectively.

“I want to say to them, you have a partner in this Government. We’re going to provide you with all of the support that we can,” he noted.

Tourism, Industry and Commerce Minister Susan Rodrigues said the bank creates a new pathway for entrepreneurs who have traditionally encountered barriers within the commercial banking system.

“Whether investing in ecotourism, hospitality, village commerce, or light manufacturing, the door to financial empowerment is wide open,” Rodrigues said, encouraging the private sector commerce, the wider business community and prospective entrepreneurs to have their business plans and proposals ready, with opportunities extending to ecotourism, hospitality, village commerce and light manufacturing. (CMC)

Doctors' pay fight ends in major win

Following the Industrial Disputes Tribunal's landmark ruling in favour of doctors in their long-running allowances dispute with the State, senior trade unionist Lambert Brown says the medical practitioners are ready to meet with the Government to implement the award.

In a quick response on Monday, Brown said the doctors were pleased with the outcome.

"We receive the award [ruling] just after 4 p.m. and we can confirm that award is in favour of the doctors and the two issues before the tribunal," he said.

In making the Jamaica Medical Doctors' Association's (JMDA) case before the IDT, Brown presented 170 pieces of evidence.

Just after receiving the ruling, Brown said the doctors "are happy and satisfied with the outcome and look forward to meeting with the Government to implement the award. It has been 42 long months. It's time to put this dispute to an end".

The JMDA was pushing for the IDT to make an award of \$31 billion in back pay for overtime, while the Government had calculated the retroactive sum at \$23 billion.

With Monday's award, the JMDA is expected to receive what is believed to be the largest-ever quasi-judicial payout from the Government.

In arriving at its decision, at least one member of the three-member IDT panel, while concurring with the majority ruling regarding the emergency duty allowance, dissented in relation to the reinstatement of the incentive allowance.

The IDT upheld the JMDA's position of preserving a specialised emergency duty compensation system for public-sector doctors and restoring the incentive allowance retroactively to April 1, 2023, rather than the Govern-



ment's proposed August 1, 2024 date.

The tribunal found that the incentive allowance was not validly removed or absorbed into basic salary because there was no mutual agreement to end it. The JMDA had contended that the Government unilaterally and unlawfully discontinued the incentive allowance as at April 1, 2023.

The IDT award applied to the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, the University Hospital of the West Indies, Bellevue Hospital, the Ministry of National Security and Peace and other relevant public health facilities.

The IDT rejected the Government's standard public-sector overtime policy.

Under its extra-hours-worked policy for the public sector, the Government abolished specialised sessional-rate categories and replaced them with a flat-multiplier overtime model – 1.5x for standard weekdays and the first rest day, and 2.0x for the second rest day and public holidays.

However, the IDT found that the flat extra-hours-worked model, with a 15-hour weekly cap, was unsuitable for continuous 24-hour healthcare operations and patient-safety requirements. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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Regional News



Mitchell calls early election



Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell has announced November 5 as the date for a general election, almost a year ahead of the constitutional deadline in October 2027.

Mitchell, an attorney who will be leading the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) into a second consecutive general election, did not name the date for the nomination of candidates.

But, according to the official Government Gazette in an extraordinary publication, "the date for nomination of candidates shall be 15th October 2026".

The NDC is expected to face a challenge from the main opposition New National Party (NNP), headed by Emmalin Pierre, who succeeded former prime minister and party founder Dr Keith Mitchell as leader.

Mitchell bowed out of active politics last week, telling a special sitting of Parliament, "no one voted me out" after 42 years as the parliamentary representative for the constituency of St George's North West.

Pierre became leader in 2024 and will become the first woman to lead the party into a general election.

Former foreign affairs minister Peter David, who launched the Democratic People's Movement (DPM) on November 16 last year, is also expected to contest the 15 seats in Parliament.

Mitchell, in a short statement to supporters at the party's campaign and candidate launch in St Mark on the northwest coast of the island, said he is confident of winning the elections, saying that some supporters were calling for a clean sweep of all 15 seats in Parliament.

In the last Parliament, the NDC enjoyed a 9-6 majority, with the NNP being the only party in Grenada's political history to have won all the seats on three occasions in the past.

"I shall not keep you waiting much longer," he told supporters, noting that the conch shell, the hard, spiral-shaped outer home of a large, tropical sea snail, which the NDC uses instead of a bell to announce a significant political event, would soon be blown.

"And so tonight, tonight, we sung the conch shell again. Let us get ready for the song of the conch shell. So, you've heard the call. You've heard the shell.

The decision now belongs to you.

"And therefore, general elections will be held on 5th November 2026. So, on 5th November, when we touch down in St Mark, the whole place will be shelled down. When we touch down in St Mark, the whole place will be shelled down," Mitchell said.

He told supporters that the 15 candidates have been presented and "you've seen them, you've heard some of them.

"You understand that we are about service ... and that we are asking you humbly and respectfully to continue with the team that is the National Democratic Congress to make sure that you, me, us are ready for more and ready to take Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique forward.

"And remember, from tomorrow, it's boots, boots, boots, boots on the ground," he added. (CMC)

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Young Canadians sue government over alleged climate failures

When a wildfire threatened her northern Canada home three years ago, Kira Young packed what she could and fled.

Later this month, she'll be in court, suing Ottawa over allegations it is failing to respond to climate change.

Young is one of 15 people from across the country, all aged 17-24, pursuing a case unprecedented in Canadian legal history.

Over five weeks of hearings beginning on October 26, the group will argue that successive governments have violated their constitutional rights to life, liberty and security by not sufficiently cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The trial in the West Coast city of Vancouver is part of a growing global movement of environmental activists using courts to force government action on climate change, with major victories already recorded internationally.

Young is from Yellowknife, a city a few hundred kilometres south of the Arctic Circle, where a wildfire forced an evacuation order for all nearly 20,000 residents in the summer of 2023.

The 20-year-old said she and her family "had to pack up everything we could into our car and leave our home," driving 18 hours south to safety.

The message of her lawsuit is that climate change "is a challenge we can address. There is hope," she said.

Lauren Wright, a co-plaintiff, told AFP that devastating events fueled by rising global temperatures "can't just keep happening."

"It can't just be a 'oops, we missed (our emissions targets) again because we were looking somewhere else,'" the 22-year-old said.

"There has to be accountability and Canadians deserve that."



The ongoing legal battle by the 15 young Canadians began in 2019. Their case was initially dismissed, but in 2023 a federal appeals court ruled they were entitled to a trial.

In 2024, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in favour of retired Swiss women, who argued Switzerland had not done enough to confront climate change, the first decision of its kind.

The following year, the International Court of Justice issued a landmark advisory opinion that states are obligated to protect the climate for present and future generations, guidance that could influence legal processes in several jurisdictions.

But a setback for the climate movement came in the United States last year, where a federal judge rejected an argument from young plaintiffs claiming President Donald Trump's pro-fossil-fuel policies violated their fundamental rights.

A federal government report released last month said that since 1970 temperatures in Canada have risen nearly twice as fast as the global average.

Wildfires made more common and severe by global warming have scorched record amounts of land in recent years.

For Albert Lalonde, a 24-year-old plaintiff in the Vancouver case, "young people are confronted with the question of how to plan ahead, how to build a life in a world that is going through collapse."

He argued the current policies of Prime Minister Mark Carney's government are making things worse.

Carney has voiced support for increased oil production, citing the industry as a key tool to help reduce Canada's economic reliance on the United States.

He has also conceded the ambitious climate targets set by his predecessor, Justin Trudeau, are not feasible.

"We could never have imagined that our lawsuit would take place in the current context of backsliding on every front of the climate and environmental question," Lalonde told AFP.

"We are literally going back to the 1970s," he said, voicing hope the trial will "send a signal." (AFP)

Snap election called amid housing crisis



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez yesterday announced an early general election, seeking to seize momentum from housing protests that have roiled the country and frame the vote around issues that are favourable to his Socialist party.

The election is scheduled for November 29 and will come roughly eight months earlier than originally planned.

Spaniards have staged repeated protests in cities across the country in recent weeks, demanding action on the entrenched housing crisis amid outrage over the widely publicised eviction of an 87-year-old woman in Madrid last month.

Sánchez's government suffered a bruising legislative defeat last week

when right-wing opposition parties voted down emergency decrees introduced by his government to address evictions and real estate speculation. The setback sparked wide speculation that Sánchez would move forward the general election and use the momentum on the housing issue against his right-wing opponents.

If Sánchez's gamble backfires, it could pave the way for a right-wing coalition of conservatives and the far-right Vox party, bringing an end to one of Europe's most prominent progressive governments, led by a vocal critic of the Trump administration.

In an address to the nation, Sánchez argued that a broader progressive

coalition in Parliament would allow Spain to tackle its biggest challenges.

"The time has come for the Spanish people to decide what future you want for yourselves and for your country," Sánchez said.

"Whether you wish to join that far-right wave – which rolls back progress wherever it governs – or whether you want Spain to remain a bastion of openness, social justice, and environmental responsibility. Whether you want our country to move backward or continue moving forward," he said.

Sánchez, 54, has been prime minister since 2018, making him one of Europe's longest-serving leaders.

He has emerged as a leading progressive voice internationally through his defence of migration, his support for Palestinians, and his criticism of the US and Israeli war against Iran. He has also defended multilateral institutions and called for regulation of artificial intelligence, speaking out against “tech oligarchs”.

Under his leadership, Spain has had one of the fastest growing economies in the developed world in recent years.

But a series of legal cases involving his party as well as his wife and his brother have damaged the prime minister’s standing. His wife and brother deny wrongdoing.

He has also struggled to account for this summer’s border crossing by tens of thousands of mostly Moroccans into Spain’s North African territory of Ceuta, where a humanitarian crisis remains two months after the initial border crossing.

He has led a coalition minority government along with the left-wing junior partner Sumar since 2023. But his reliance on several smaller parties to get anything done has hamstrung his legislative ability.

Throughout his political career, Sánchez has earned a reputation as a political escape artist capable of winning elections he appeared set to lose.

Speculation around whether he would announce snap elections centered on the momentum that his party may now have around housing and public services, while the opposition Popular Party — which holds the most seats in Parliament already — is likely to define the contest around corruption and the ruling government’s mismanagement of the Ceuta crisis.

Opinion polls suggest the Popular Party and Vox could together win enough support to oust Sánchez. It

remains unclear how strongly housing will motivate voters on either side.

“Sánchez is choosing this moment because it is arguably the best time to do so, given that the issue of housing frames the electoral conflict or debate in terms that are highly favourable to (his party’s) position,” said Oriol Bartomeus, a political-science professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

“Sánchez can frame the election — or has realised he can frame it — in

very classic left-versus-right terms,” Bartomeus said.

Sánchez will face Popular Party leader Alberto Núñez Feijóo, who aims to take control of the government.

“At last, the Spanish people will decide,” Feijóo said on Monday after the election announcement. “These are not elections like previous ones in our democracy. This is about Spain defeating Sánchez and what he represents,” he said. (AP)



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Google faces UK court over app store charges



A class action lawsuit against Google opens in London Tuesday, with the technology giant accused of earning excessive commissions from its app store, impacting 20 million United Kingdom (UK) consumers and businesses.

The plaintiffs, who allege Google abused its dominant position, are seeking more than £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) in damages in a hearing at the Competition Appeal Tribunal set to last seven weeks.

The case concerns purchases made

on the Google Play Store in the UK between October 1, 2015 and July 31, 2026.

“For more than a decade, Google has taken a cut of up to 30 percent on almost everything we buy through the Play Store,” said Liz Coll, an independent consultant who is leading this class action alongside law firm Hausfeld.

“We say that charge was unfair and excessive, and that consumers paid for it,” the specialist in online consumer rights added in a statement.

Heading into the trial, a Google spokesperson said the Play Store offers “some of the lowest fees in the market”, adding “Android gives people more choice than any other mobile platform in deciding which apps and app stores they use”.

“This lawsuit ignores that choice as well as the competitive market in which we operate, and we will defend our services vigorously,” they added in a statement.

Apple lost a similar lawsuit in late 2025, with the amount of damages still to be decided by the court. The plaintiffs estimate they will come in at more than £1.5 billion.

Google meanwhile reached a £260-million settlement in a class action brought on behalf of thousands of UK developers, which was approved by the Competition Appeal Tribunal last month.

The agreement provides for £160 million in compensation for eligible developers, with the remainder allocated to costs associated with funding and conducting the proceedings.

Under UK law and in this type of class action, all potentially affected individuals are included in the proceedings by default — and could benefit from any resulting compensation — unless they opt out. (AFP)



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Paramount takes over Warner Bros in \$110bn Hollywood merger

Paramount Skydance has officially taken over Warner Bros Discovery in a \$110bn merger that is set to reshape Hollywood and the media landscape.

The takeover - merging two of the biggest studios in Los Angeles - comes after months of legal disputes and widespread criticism over feared cuts and consolidation could harm competition and consumers.

It will alter streaming for millions, usher in a new chapter in the film and TV industry, and leave one of the biggest US news outlets, CNN, in uncertain territory.

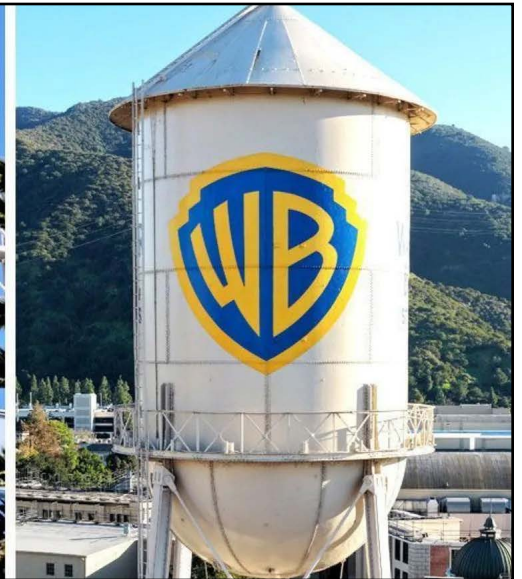
The merger will also bring together a host of entities including HBO, CBS, Nickelodeon, Showtime, Comedy Central, DC Studios and Food Network.

Paramount will acquire ownership of iconic franchises that include Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, The Lord of the Rings and Mission: Impossible.

The newly merged entertainment behemoth will be re-branded under the name Skydance Corporation, the company originally founded by David Ellison before he took over both Paramount and Warner Bros Discovery.

Ellison, chairman and chief executive of Skydance, said the completion of the deal was "historic" for the film industry.

"From the start, our ambition was to bring these two storied studios together and create a stronger competitor, with the talent, resources, and reach to tell great stories in



every genre, on every platform, for audiences everywhere. Now that ambition is a reality," he said.

Last week, Ellison named the outgoing chief executive of Mattel, Ynon Kreiz, as co-chief executive.

Kreiz will focus on the company's day-to-day operations, including integrating the newly-combined businesses, while Ellison will focus on strategy and technology.

Mark Thompson - who once served as director general of the BBC - will continue in his role as chairman and editor-in-chief of CNN Worldwide, while Bari Weiss remains editor-in-chief of CBS News.

While the company said it had received unanimous approval from competition authorities across the world, the long running takeover process has featured controversy since the beginning.

Netflix initially had a deal to buy part of Warner Bros Discovery, but Paramount Skydance launched a

bidding war, leading to the streaming giant walking away.

Lawyers in about a dozen US states then filed lawsuits - led by California - aiming to block the deal, arguing it would stifle competition, raise consumer prices and cause "substantial" harm to movie theatres, cable distributors and "ultimately, audiences nationwide".

US states announced a settlement with Paramount and Ellison last month which paved the way for the merger to go ahead.

As part of the deal, Paramount has agreed to establish a "news editorial independence board" to "ensure independent, objective, fact-based reporting" at CNN and CBS.

Politics and editorial independence has become an area of concern at CBS since the news broadcaster was taken over in 2025 as part of separate a merger between Skydance Media and Paramount.

Ellison, who hosted a dinner for President Donald Trump earlier

International

AROUND THE WORLD


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this year, has sought to reassure people that editorial independence will be maintained.

Over its 103-year-old history, Warner Bros has won more than 100 Academy Awards - including dominating at last year's show with a record-tying 11 Oscars for *One Battle After Another*, *Sinners and Weapons*.

Paramount traces its roots back 1912 and also boasts more than 100 Oscars for classics spanning from *The Godfather* to *Titanic*, though the studio has not mirrored the same recent spate of Hollywood honours.

The studio was not nominated for any projects last year by the Academy. Its last win came in 2022 with *Top Gun: Maverick*.

The deal with US states aims to ensure the merged studios will produce "real, robust movies" that will generate economic activity and put people back to work, said California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who led the lawsuit and settlement.

To prevent the studio from fulfilling its annual quota with low-budget or automated content, the deal includes strict guardrails against "AI-generated" films.

As part of the agreement, Paramount must release at least 30 films each year. If it fails to meet its annual production quota, it will be forced to sell its 49% stake in Miramax, the film company founded by disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein and his brother Bob.

Paramount also must ensure 20% of all film production takes place in the US for the first two years, rising to more than 30% through the following three years. (BBC)





The poster features a vibrant background image of three Antigua Carnival dancers in elaborate costumes with large, colorful feathered headdresses. The central logo is a stylized bird or fan shape with a red star and a flag. The text 'ANTIGUA' is in bold black, 'Carnival' is in a large pink script, and 'THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL' is in smaller black text. Below this, 'Legendary 70' is written in pink script with a large, ornate '70'. The dates 'JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027' are in large pink block letters. At the bottom, social media handles are listed.

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Sports News



Coaches win mixed division title in ABNA Business League



Coaches clinched the mixed division title in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) Business League Competition on Monday.

Coaches secured the title by snatching a narrow 28-24 victory over Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders in the final match of the league competition at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Akiel Hazelwood sank 17 of his 22 attempts, and Rayana Regis converted 11 of her 17 shots for the Coaches. Ervedine Parker-Barnard scored 18 of her 22 attempts, Carl Kirby sank four of his seven shots, and Jamila Fitz converted two of her four tries for the Rewinders.

Coaches claimed the mixed division title ahead of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education and Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders after all three teams finished with identical re-

cords of three wins and one defeat from their quota of four round-robin matches in the five-team contest.

The ABUT Ministry of Education, who defeated Coaches, claimed the runners-up spot, while Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders finished in third place. The Rewinders beat the ABUT Ministry of Education.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League claimed fourth place with a record of one win and three losses, and Galley Bay Resort finished winless and in the cellar after losing all four matches.

Akiel Hazelwood of Coaches captured the overall Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament. Hazelwood also won the MVP award for the Coaches' team.

The other team MVP awards in the mixed division were captured by Daniel Perez of ABUT Ministry of

Education; Peter Jacobs of Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders; Daniel Kerr of Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League; and Marcus Marquis of Galley Bay Resort.

The Ministry of Tourism played unbeaten, winning all four games, to capture the title in the female division.

The Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT) Ministry of Education claimed the runners-up spot, and the University of the West Indies (UWI) finished in third place.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters A team secured fourth place, and the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters B team finished winless and in the cellar of the female division competition.

Anayjah Anthony of UWI claimed the overall Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the female division tournament. Anthony also won the MVP award for the UWI team.

The other team MVP awards in the female division were captured by Krizia Duncan of the Ministry of Tourism; Tanya Green of the ABUT Ministry of Education; Danella Lovelace of Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League A team; and Haleena Pierre of Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League B team.

Wins for Curtain Bluff and SLBMC in Business Basketball League



Players of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center basketball team.

Curtain Bluff Resort and the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) recorded wins in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on Monday evening.

The Curtain Bluff Resort recorded their seventh win in 11 outings by pulling off a hard-fought 60-56 victory over former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Javonte Daley sank 15 points, Shaloom Bloodman converted 13 points, and Orion Seraphine scored 11 points for Curtain Bluff Hotel.

Lindsay McDonald shot a game-high 19 points, Marlon "Buju" Charles produced 15 points, and Elijah Charles converted 13 points for the Transport Board, who lost for the fourth time in 10 games.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Center recorded their second win in 10

matches by snatching a slender 61-60 victory over Christos in a bottom-of-the-table clash in Monday's opening game.

Demeitre Leitch produced a game-high 23 points, and Raheem Charles converted 18 points for the SLBMC.

Bruce Whyte sank 19 points, and Javon Simon scored 16 points for Christos, who remain winless after suffering their ninth defeat in as many games.



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India beat West Indies to take lead in five-match T20I series



Shreyas Iyer celebrates after achieving his maiden T20 International century during the first encounter of the five-match series against the West Indies in Lucknow, India, on Tuesday, October 6, 2026. (BCCI)

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Shreyas Iyer led the way with 102 not out off 43 balls as India beat West Indies by eight wickets in the first of the five Twenty20 Internationals (T20I) on Tuesday.

The captain reached his maiden T20 hundred in 42 balls — tied for the sixth-fastest century by an India player in the format — as the hosts achieved victory at 172 for two in 14.4 overs after dismissing the West Indies for 171 all out in 19.1 overs.

Iyer hit six sixes and 10 fours. Ishan Kishan scored 37 not out, as the duo put on 137 runs off 67 balls for the third wicket.

Shai Hope (52) and Sherfane Rutherford (56) hit half-centuries for the visitors to help recover from 135 for eight, but it was an under-par score against the reigning T20 world champions.

Earlier, India won the toss and opted to bowl. Batting all-rounder Naman Dhir made his T20 debut for the hosts.

Chasing 172, India lost its in-form batters in the powerplay. Abhishek Sharma scored 21 off 10 balls, before holing out off Roston Chase. Sanju Samson was out for 11.

India reached 62 for two in the powerplay, as Kishan and Iyer helped the innings recover to 102 for two at the halfway mark.

Iyer reached 50 off 28 balls with eight fours and then accelerated further, scoring his next 50 off only 14 balls, including six sixes.

Iyer was 72 not out off 36 balls at the start of 14th over — he hit two sixes off Matthew Forde and then was dropped at long on off the third delivery. He then hit two more sixes to reach his maiden hundred in style.

This was after West Indies made a poor start. Arshdeep Singh bowled Kamil Pooran for 12, and Shimron Hetmyer was run out for five with Iyer involved in the dismissal.

Axar Patel bowled Rovman Powell for a three-ball duck and West Indies were struggling at 44 for three in the powerplay.

Hope and Rutherford added 63 runs off 35 balls to rescue the innings. But Dhir got his maiden T20 wicket in the 12th over as Hope was out caught at midwicket. Dhir finished with three for 31 in four overs on his T20 debut.

The West Indies continued to lose wickets in the lower-middle order, and only Rutherford's three sixes helped them past the 170-run mark.

India and the West Indies will clash in the second match of the T20I series in Ranchi on Friday.

Gauff says she receives racist abuse at China Open



American Coco Gauff, left, shake hands with Xinran Sun of China after winning the third-round women's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, Monday, Oct. 5, 2026. (AP)

BEIJING (AP) — Coco Gauff said she received an “insane” amount of racist comments on social media following a controversial point in her China Open match against home player Sun Xinran.

Gauff stopped a rally after electronic advertising boards lining the court flickered during a point late in the first set of her 7-5, 6-1 third-round victory over Sun, a 16-year-old who recently won the US Open junior title.

“Hey everyone, you can dislike me or disagree about what happened without being racist,” Gauff, who is a black American, said in a reply on X.

“The amount of racist comments/dms I’ve received in the last few hours is insane. Lastly, I’m not a cheater or a thief.”

Sun appeared about to win the point when Gauff stopped playing. The chair umpire then ordered the point to be replayed.

Gauff, a two-time Grand Slam champion ranked No. 4, went on to take control of the match on Monday.

“Xinran is (an) incredible talent and player, I apologized for the situation at the end of the match and she completely understood,” Gauff added in

another post.

Sun, who was given a wild-card entry by tournament organizers and was making her WTA Tour debut, appeared distraught after the loss.

Gauff, who reached the fourth-round of Wimbledon as a 15-year-old in 2019, sympathized with Sun.

“I did not like to see her so emotional as I’ve been there and I really understand what it is like but this is just the beginning of an incredible career,” Gauff said.

“It was an honour to share the court in front of her home crowd.”

Winning start for PMS in defense of school boys under-14 title

Princess Margaret School (PMS) made a successful start in defense of their Boys Under-14 Division title in the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League on Monday.

Princess Margaret School launched their campaign in this year's competition with a 6-1 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS) in their opening-round match at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Curdyson Harper had a double conversion with strikes in the 37th and 46th minutes. Team-mate Kiran Cordice opened the scoring for PMS, scoring the first goal of the match in the fifth minute.

The other goals for PMS were scored by Aiquan Scott in the seventh minute, Niquan Barton in the 19th minute, and Wozamey Williams in the 36th minute.

Ashawn Davis scored a consolation goal in the 30th minute for St. Mary's Secondary School.

O'Jay Polimus scored four goals as All Saints Secondary School made a winning start to their campaign by recording a 5-0 victory over Pares Secondary School in their opening match at the Freemans Village playing field.



O'Jay Polimus scored four goals for All Saints Secondary School against Pares Secondary School.

Polimus had conversions in the fifth, 18th, 31st, and 39th minutes. Keaton Kellman scored the

other goal for All Saints Secondary School with a strike in the 17th minute.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) also won their opening match, snatching a 2-1 victory over Irene B. Williams Secondary (IBWS) in an encounter, which ended prematurely at the Freemans Village playing field.

Jayden Bellot scored both goals for Sir Novelle Richards Academy with conversions in the 16th and 33rd minutes. Adarius James scored for Irene B. Williams Secondary with a strike in the 17th minute.

However, the match ended prematurely when the players of the Irene B. Williams Secondary team refused to continue the game after their goalkeeper got injured during the encounter.

The opening encounter between Jennings Secondary School and Clare Hall Secondary School ended in a 2-2 draw at the Golden Grove playing field.

But the match between last year's second place finishers, Antigua Grammar School, and Ottos Comprehensive School was not played. The players of Ottos Comprehensive School failed to show up for the match at the Radio Range playing field.