

CHOGM Task Force visits Barbuda

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The CHOGM 2026 school outreach programme extended its reach to Barbuda on Tuesday, engaging 297 students at Holy Trinity Primary School and Sir McChesney George Secondary School as the national school tour enters its final phase.

The visits reached 176 students at Holy Trinity Primary School and 121 students at Sir McChesney George Secondary School. A further 71 teachers and school personnel participated across both institutions, bringing the total number reached in Barbuda to 368.

Through discussions and interactive learning activities, students explored the Commonwealth, the significance of Antigua and Barbuda hosting CHOGM, and their place in this national milestone. Each student received the full set of outreach activities, supporting participation and providing opportunities to continue learning beyond the sessions.

Outreach Lead Wakizia Thomas described the Barbuda visits as an important part of the programme's commitment to national inclusion.

"The school tours in Barbuda were



engaging, with students actively participating in the discussions and activities. These visits form part of a larger push to ensure that our sister island is part of the conversation around CHOGM and that young people in Barbuda have the opportunity to learn, contribute and share in this national milestone," Thomas said.

Joshuanette Francis of Good Humans

268 highlighted the significance of bringing the outreach programme to the island.

"Having the opportunity to bring this programme to Barbuda is an honour. Too often, activities taking place on the mainland have not included Barbudans, so being here to speak with students about CHOGM is especially meaningful. Seeing every student re-



ceive the full set of activities and have

the opportunity to participate was a wonderful part of the visit,” Francis said.

For Chaneil Imhoff, CHOGM 2026 Branding and General Advertising Lead and designer of the official logo, the visit carried particular significance.

“Coming to Barbuda felt like a full-circle moment. The Frigate bird motif in the CHOGM 2026 logo draws on an unmistakable part of Barbuda’s identity, and it was deeply meaningful to bring that story to students on the island that inspired it. Throughout the school tour, our discussions, colouring activities, word searches and ‘Find Our Commonwealth’ exercises have helped students connect with CHOGM in ways that are creative, accessible and engaging. This visit brought that connection to life and reinforced that

this is a moment for both Antigua and Barbuda,” Imhoff said.

As the school tour winds down, the Outreach Sub-Committee is entering a new phase of public engagement through targeted town hall meetings ahead of CHOGM 2026. These meetings will provide opportunities for communities to learn more about the meeting, ask questions and participate in conversations about the country’s role as host and how they will be impacted.

Building on the school outreach programme, this next phase will broaden public participation and strengthen awareness across Antigua and Barbuda, ensuring that the national conversation reaches beyond classrooms and into communities.

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Local News

Antigua and Barbuda Selected for Field Mission in World's First Cradle-to-Career Disability Study



Antigua and Barbuda has been selected as one of four Caribbean countries for in-depth field missions in what UNICEF and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States describe as the world's first Cradle-to-Career systems assessment of children with disabilities. The selection places the country at the centre of a major regional initiative examining how children with disabilities are supported through early childhood, education and the transition into employment. Antigua and Barbuda will join Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago as the four countries where researchers will conduct detailed fieldwork, generating evidence to guide more inclusive policies, programmes and services. The assessment was endorsed at the recent meeting of the OECS Council of Ministers for Human and Social Development, which Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, attended. Minister Johnson highlighted the significance of Antigua and Barbuda's selection and the global importance of the initiative, stressing that the country's participation should be prominently recognised. Led by UNICEF and the OECS, the assessment will examine how health, education, social protection, child protection, community services and employment systems support children

and young people with disabilities. Its Cradle-to-Career approach will look across these interconnected systems, assessing support throughout a child's development rather than examining individual services in isolation. For Antigua and Barbuda, the field

mission will provide an opportunity to examine how existing services work together, identify gaps in support and generate evidence to inform improvements. The findings are intended to help shape systems that enable children with disabilities to thrive and reach their full potential.

The wider assessment covers 11 Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Described by its organisers as the first study globally to adopt this systems approach for children with disabilities, the initiative positions the Caribbean at the forefront of disability inclusive development, with Antigua and Barbuda playing a central role in its detailed research.



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Government Investment in Healthcare Workforce Yields First Cohort of Master of Public Health Graduates



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda's investment in strengthening the national healthcare workforce has reached an important milestone with the successful completion of studies by the first cohort of Master of Public Health (MPH) gradu-

ates from the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus.

Minister of Health, Michael Joseph, has extended congratulations to the eight graduates, seven of whom are nurses employed within the Government's healthcare system who



received Prime Minister's Scholarships through the Ministry of Health to pursue the advanced qualification. The graduates are Nurse Roselia Carriere-Joseph, Miasha John-Carr,

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Nollareen Andrew-Richards, Tanasha Roberts, Joyann Richardson-Fiedtkou, Chelly Humphrey and Elaine Davis.

The eighth graduate, Dr. Jonathan Macomie also works within the healthcare system.

The achievement represents a significant investment in the people responsible for delivering and supporting healthcare in Antigua and Barbuda. By facilitating advanced training for healthcare professionals already serving within the public healthcare system, the Government is strengthening the capacity of its existing workforce, equipping professionals with specialised knowledge in public health and helping to build the expertise required to address current and emerging health challenges.

Minister Joseph said the completion of the programme demonstrates the importance of sustained investment in human resource development as the Government continues to advance its healthcare agenda.

“This is what investment in our people looks like. We are not simply supporting individuals to obtain additional qualifications; we are strengthening the knowledge, skills and capacity within our own healthcare system. The fact that these healthcare professions are already working within the Government’s



healthcare services means that the benefits of this investment can extend directly to the institutions, communities and people they serve,” the Minister stated.

He added that public health training is particularly important to national development, as it supports disease prevention, health promotion, health surveillance, evidence-based policy-making and the design of interventions that respond to the health needs of the population.

The Minister also acknowledged Dr. Macomie’s achievement, noting that his successful completion of the programme adds to the expertise available within the healthcare system. He congratulated all eight graduates

for their commitment, perseverance and dedication in completing the demanding programme while pursuing their professional responsibilities.

In recognition of the graduates’ accomplishment, Minister Joseph presented each with a gift basket and a bottle of wine as a token of appreciation and congratulations on reaching this important professional milestone and reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to investing in the development of healthcare personnel, emphasising that a well-trained workforce remains central to improving the quality of healthcare and advancing better health outcomes for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Regional Security Heads Meet in Barbados



Strengthening regional security co-operation, enhancing operational co-ordination and reinforcing collective responses to emerging security threats were at the forefront of the recent Regional Security System (RSS) Security Chiefs Meeting, held at The Crane Resort in Barbados.

The meeting brought together senior officials from RSS Member States, providing an important platform for strategic dialogue on the evolving security landscape and the need for continued collaboration to safeguard the region.

Against the backdrop of increasingly

complex and interconnected security challenges, the engagement underscored the importance of intelligence sharing, operational readiness, capacity building and coordinated approaches to addressing threats that transcend national borders.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for participating officials to exchange perspectives, consider shared security priorities and explore ways to strengthen interoperability and cooperation among regional security agencies.

As the Caribbean continues to confront challenges ranging from transnational organised crime and illicit

trafficking to cybersecurity threats and disaster-related emergencies, the RSS remains committed to promoting a unified and resilient regional security framework.

The engagement reinforced the importance of sustained partnerships, strategic planning and collective responsibility in protecting the sovereignty, stability and safety of RSS Member States.

Guided by its motto, Strength Through Unity, the RSS continues to advance its mission of fostering co-operation, enhancing security capabilities and contributing to a safer and more secure Caribbean.



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 — WORLD FOOD DAY

7:00 AM

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The Honourable Anthony Smith, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy
ABS Television & Radio | Social Media Streaming

9:00 AM–3:00 PM

NATIONAL SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION DRIVE

Agricultural Extension Division Headquarters, Kentish Road, St. John's

PLANT2PLATE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

FOCUS: Sustainable agriculture • Youth involvement • Food sovereignty



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

12:00 PM–7:00 PM

AGRI NIGHT MARKET & EXPOSITION

Vegetable seedling distribution for backyard gardeners and the general public
Agricultural Extension Division Grounds, Kentish Road, St. John's

FOCUS: Local food • Youth agribusiness • Community engagement



Caribbean
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IICA Officially Hands Over Agricultural Project To Participating Schools



An agricultural project that involved two participating schools – one public and the other private – has been officially turned over to the two schools that have been part of the project from its inception.

The handover ceremony was initiated by the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA), which spearheaded the project supported by both public and private sector partners. Attendance at the ceremony came from representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education as well as Board Members from the GEF SGP UNDP, parents and well-wishers.

The participating schools are the Cedar Grove primary and the Victory Center.

The Principal of the Victory Center Jahmorla James Francis during her remarks stated, “Today, we are not simply receiving a hydroponics system. We are receiving an opportunity — an opportunity to learn, to grow, to become more independent, and to open new doors for our students.”

GEF SGP UNDP Coordinator Natalya Lawrence.....”the project epitomises GEF SGP’s core fundamental principles of Innovation, Inclusion and Impact! The teachers monitor and guide, and the children lead, teaching each other, their teachers, and me! A simple project with profound A simple project with profound results, fostering teamwork, part-



nership, and responsibility.

Maudvere Bradford Director of Agriculture (ag) commend all the stakeholders for conceptualizing such a project and pledge the support from the Ministry of Agriculture through technical support.

A brief field tour was done with a ribbon cutting by the students and supporters afterwards participants received an opportunity to observe the progress of the crops planted 3 weeks ago as well as a tour of the seedling nursery.

IICA continues to support its member states through youth interventions while incorporating modern technology to strengthen Agriculture



Renewed Hope for Farmers in Antigua and Barbuda as Moongate Hotel Partners to buy Local Produce.



In a significant step toward strengthening the nation's agricultural sector and boosting food security, a renewed sense of hope was ignited Tuesday, 13th October, 2026 for local farmers in Antigua and Barbuda following a pivotal meeting with the management of the Moongate Hotel at Half Moon Bay.

The meeting, which brought together a total of 10 local farmers, was organized by the first and former Chief Agricultural Extension Officer, now retired, Owolabi Elabanjo whose

continued dedication to the farming community helped facilitate this vital connection between producers and the hospitality industry.

The initiative is designed to create a direct market for locally grown produce, allowing farmers to supply the Moongate Hotel with fresh, home-grown fruits and vegetables while reducing the island's reliance on imported goods. The partnership represents a meaningful opportunity for farmers to secure consistent buyers for their

crops, increase their income, and expand their operations.

Speaking on the significance of the collaboration, organizers emphasized that the hotel connection serves as a model for how the tourism and agriculture sectors can work hand in hand for the benefit of the entire nation. By sourcing locally, hotels not only support the livelihoods of farmers but also offer guests an authentic taste of Antigua and Barbuda.

The success of Tuesday's meeting has sparked optimism that other hotels across the twin-island state will soon follow suit. Stakeholders are looking forward to seeing more hospitality establishments "jump on the wagon" and join the movement to market and utilize local produce.

With this renewed partnership, farmers in Antigua and Barbuda are being offered more than just a market — they are being given renewed hope for a sustainable and prosperous future.

The Ministry of Agriculture describes this farmer-hotel partnership as aiming to promote sustainable agriculture, strengthen local food systems, and foster economic growth within Antigua and Barbuda by connecting local farmers directly with the tourism industry.

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Antiguan and Barbudan diplomat chairs important session of UN First Committee

Antigua and Barbuda continues to strengthen its presence in international diplomacy as part of an effort to resolve some of the world's most pressing issues.

This was underscored this week when First Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Claxton Duberry, took the chair during deliberations of a crucial UN body.

Duberry has been presiding over a meeting of what is known as the First Committee. The body addresses some of the most consequential issues confronting the international community. Its mandate includes disarmament, the regulation of armaments, and international cooperation in maintaining peace and security.

For Antigua and Barbuda, participation at this level provides an opportunity for a small island developing state to contribute directly to deliberations on issues with far-reaching implications for international security and the future of multilateral cooperation.

Duberry was also elected to serve on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda as Vice

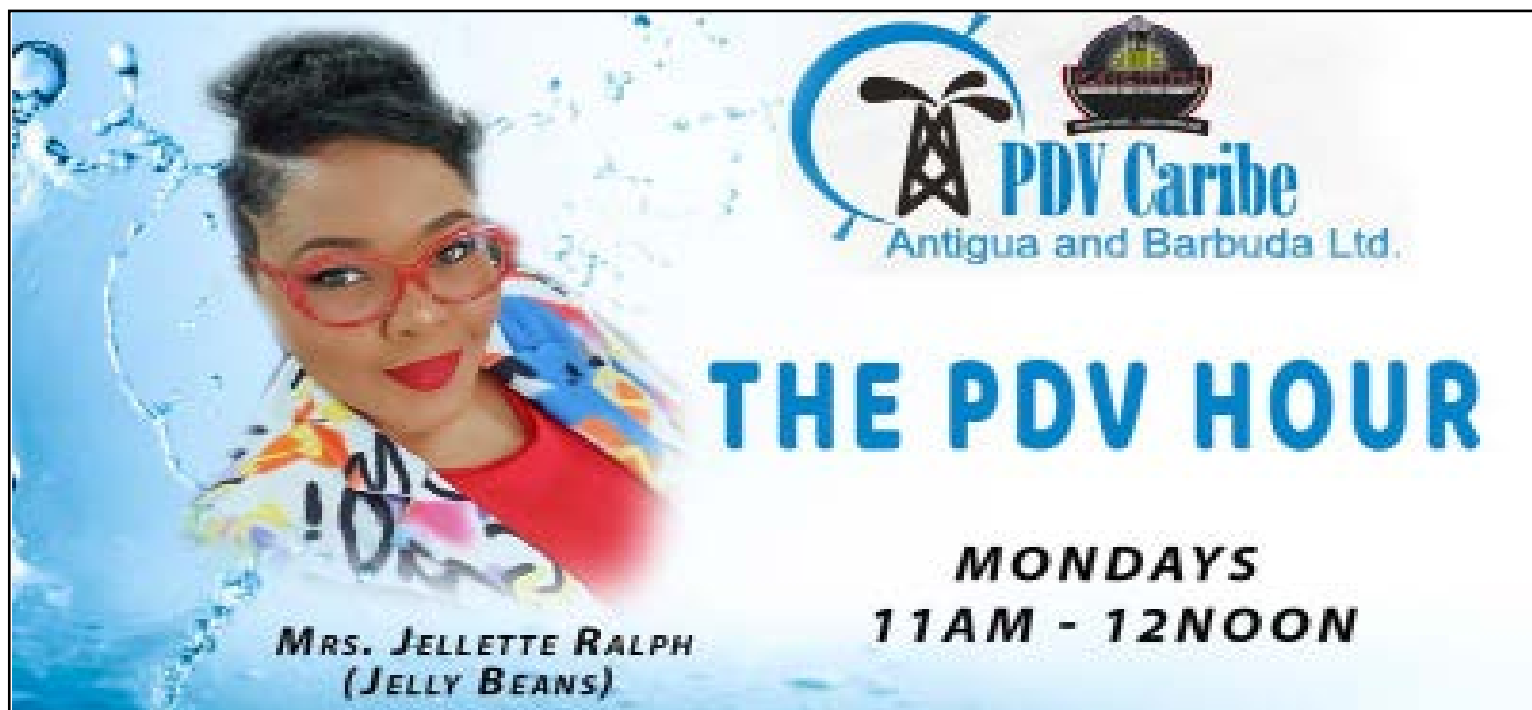


President of the Committee for this the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

“This was an important moment for Antigua and Barbuda as it affirms the importance of our participation in the multilateral system. Small states must continue to play a role in shaping discussions and advancing solutions to

the prevailing challenges facing the international community today,” Duberry noted.

Global security concerns are today demanding sustained diplomatic engagement. Antigua and Barbuda therefore remains committed to participating in fora where practical solutions and responses can be fully discussed.



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22
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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
NOVEMBER

Independence Flag Ceremony
Barbuda

7:00 AM

Independence Ceremonial Parade
Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

5:45 PM



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- 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*

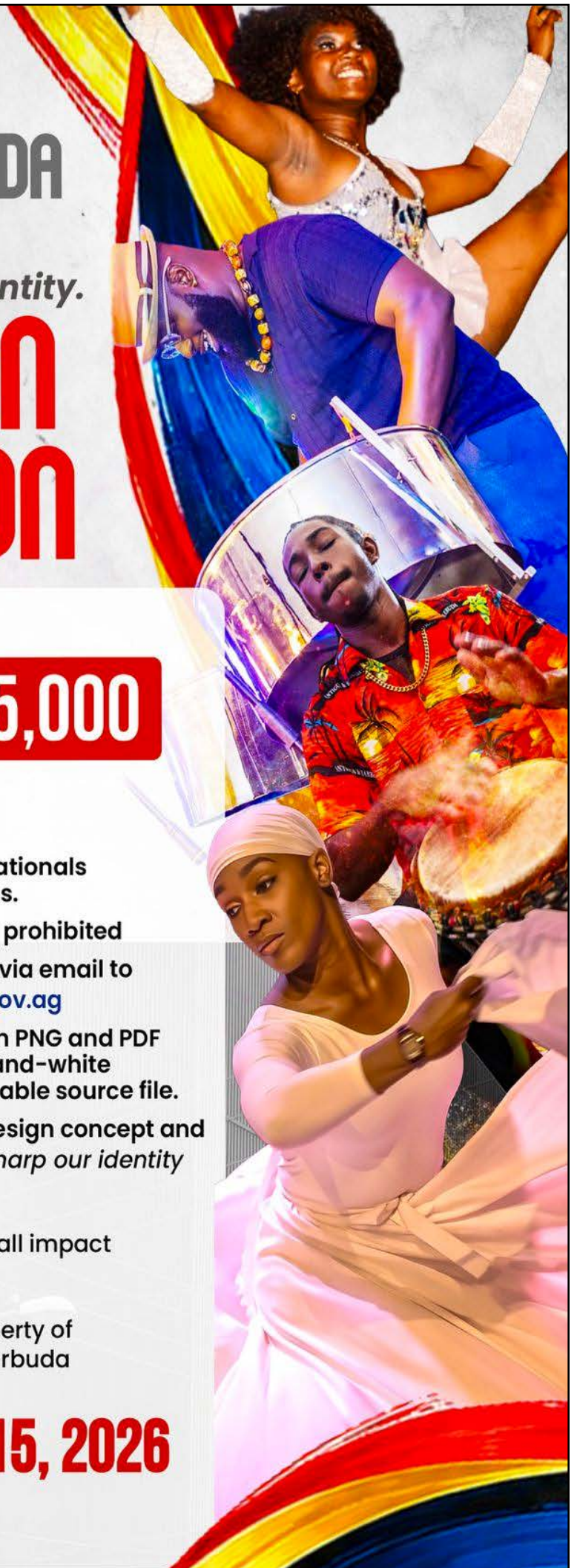
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SUBMIT BY OCTOBER 15, 2026



Regional News



TCN deal takes flight

THE first batch of third-country nationals (TCNs) should be arriving in the island today, highly placed sources told the Jamaica Observer late Monday evening after the Government signalled the imminent start of the controversial programme agreed between Kingston and Washington.

It was not immediately clear what time the flight carrying the TCNs would arrive or the number making up the first batch; however, Observer sources said they are mostly South Americans and the country will be updated at this week's post-Cabinet press briefing.

The Government had previously stated that under the agreement Jamaica would accept no more than 25 per fortnight.

A release from the Ministry of National Security and Peace and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade on Monday said that "the first flight transporting third-country nationals under the agreement is expected to arrive in Jamaica shortly".

According to both ministries, the release was issued to provide a further update on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed earlier this year between Jamaica and the United States.

The release also stated that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has agreed to commence support services.

Under the agreement signed in June this year, up to 25 asylum seekers who have unresolved migration cases in the US will temporarily transit through Jamaica en route to their home countries every two weeks.

The MOU was inked amidst US efforts to manage regional structured migration.

According to National Security Minister Dr Horace Chang, the people covered under the MOU are not being permanently settled in Jamaica and would only remain on the island while arrangements are made for their onward movement.

But the programme has attracted flak from various quarters, including the Opposition People's National Party,



which has demanded that the Government table the full MOU in Parliament.

In their release on Monday, the national security and foreign ministries reiterated that both Kingston and Washington "had finalised the operating procedures governing the arrangement, including the necessary safeguards and parameters to ensure its implementation in a safe, orderly, and lawful manner".

"The Government reiterates that this is a transit arrangement intended to facilitate the return of third-country nationals to their countries of origin or other receiving countries, with the support of the IOM, which has been formally engaged to provide assistance to the individuals while they are in Jamaica and to facilitate their onward movement," the release said.

The ministries also restated that "the arrangement will not be funded by the Government of Jamaica, that no third-country national with criminal

antecedents will be permitted to transit through Jamaica under this programme; and further, that the number of persons anticipated will be a maximum of 25 persons per fortnight".

The ministries also reminded that the MOU provides for its suspension if 10 third country nationals apply to remain in Jamaica through asylum applications or other humanitarian processes.

"The Government of Jamaica will continue to work closely with the Government of the United States and the IOM to ensure that the implementation of the programme is appropriately managed in accordance with the principles of safe and orderly migration, and consistent with both domestic and international law," the release stated, adding that the Government "will continue to keep the public informed of significant developments as the programme progresses". (Jamaica Observer)

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Trinidadian gov't plans to reopen oil refinery

The Trinidad and Tobago Government says it intends to restart the Petrotrin oil refinery that was officially shut down on November 30, 2018, by the Keith Rowley administration due to billions of dollars in debt and operational losses.

The previous government had said that the 101-year-old refinery had accumulated an estimated TT\$12 billion (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) in debt and lost about TT\$8 billion over a five year period.

But as he delivered the TT\$63.3 billion national budget to Parliament on Monday, Finance Minister Daven-
dranath Tancoo said that the energy sector remains the main pillar of the country's economic strength.

"It is the key ingredient for our diversification thrust. Over 70 per cent of our foreign exchange earnings come from the export of energy commodities. It is this very income which facilitates the operations and development of our non-energy sectors," he added.

Tancoo told legislators that the state-owned Petrotrin Refinery is more than just reviving a dormant industrial asset to protect fuel security.

"This is about reinstating the very lifeline to communities, downstream contractors, micro-enterprises, doubles vendors, roti shops, etc. Thousands of residents in communities from Couva to Cedros were suddenly left traumatised by a loss of income to meet the needs of their family since 2018."

Tancoo said that when the refinery was shut down, the country moved from being a net exporter of refined products to having to import every single litre of diesel, of gasoline, of pitch oil and of engine oil used in this country.

"We will restart the refinery. We are advancing the phased restart of the Guaracara Refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre. Following receipt of the Comprehensive Report of the Refinery Restart



Committee, the Government is evaluating proposals from a shortlist of serious local and international investors.

"Let me be clear, we will approach the restart of this national asset with fiscal discipline. Our objective is to secure a credible, commercially viable and fully financed arrangement that protects the national interest while creating the conditions for renewed economic activity.

"We will return economic momentum and restore confidence in many communities linked to the refinery and dependent on the energy sector," Tancoo said.

Tancoo said that the previous government, which was voted out of office in April 2025, had hinged the entire energy sector on the Dragon Gas field, located in Venezuela's territorial waters in the Caribbean Sea, just across the maritime border from Trinidad and Tobago.

The finance minister said that despite multiple excursions to Venezuela, the last government "came back with nothing", accusing the previous administration also of orchestrating "the precipitous collapse in natural gas production and consequently that of LNG and petrochemicals which the country is grappling with today".

But he said natural gas supply today "stands at a meagre 2.4 bcf", adding "this is a staggering 45 per cent collapse in our natural gas output, causing the permanent closure of Atlantic LNG Train 1 and several other petrochemical plants."

"Today the Point Lisas Estate is almost a ghost town and even those plants still operating are producing significantly below capacity. They have devastated our energy security, but we are fixing it."

He said reigniting the natural gas supply was the Government's first priority, adding "we immediately engaged all the major energy stakeholders to revive growth of this vital sector".

He said that the Government has since established the Energy Accelerator Hub within the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries to fast-track all regulatory, logistical and administrative approvals for major energy investments to move from project concept to production.

"This now brings under one umbrella institution 33 separate approvals across eight ministries and agencies, reducing delays that compromised investment and postponed production. Independent analysis shows that shortening project timelines by just

Regional News



one year can unlock approximately US\$120 million in value.”

Tancoo said that to date, new gas supplies have come from bpTT's Cypre project. In addition, the EOG-operated Mento development project has achieved first gas, reaching peak production of 281.58 million scf per day in June 2026.

He said the bpTT Ginger is targeted to deliver first gas in the first quarter of 2027, with projected peak production of 335 million scf per day, while Mahogany A Extended Field will deliver first gas in 2027 with an expected peak of 200 million scf per day.

Tancoo said Juniper Phase II will deliver first gas in 2027 with peak production at 272 million scf per day, Angelin Extended Field is currently producing 127 million scf per day, while Manakin-Coquina will see a final investment decision in November 2026.

The finance minister said that Mento Phase II is expected to produce 225 million scf per day when it comes on stream; Coconut is expected to deliver first gas in 2027 with peak production estimated at 300 million scf per day; Aphrodite is expected to come on stream in 2027 with a production of 100 – 130 million scf per day; and Manatee Plus is expected to produce first gas in late 2027 with peak production of 600 million scf per day.

“This is all in 2027. There are several other ongoing initiatives in the pipeline that will contribute additional gas to the industry,” he said, telling Parliament that bpTT has secured an exploration and production license for Loran Phase II, which places this country in a strategic position to monetise potentially more than four trillion cubic feet of natural gas from several cross-border and regional fields using the country's existing energy infrastructure.

“Furthermore, bpTT has agreed to acquire Woodside's 70 per cent stake in the Calypso Gas Field, giving bpTT full control of one of this country's largest undeveloped gas discoveries. This is expected to close by the end of

2026 and will significantly strengthen the country's long-term gas supply and export outlook.

“Negotiations are well advanced with Shell and other energy companies for the further exploitation of cross-border and deep-water gas.

Tancoo said the Government had secured a potential US\$21 billion investment in oil exploration and production with ExxonMobil.

“The ExxonMobil 3D seismic acquisition programme is now completed and an analysis of the data to identify potential drilling targets within the ultra-deep-water block is at an advanced stage. Not surprisingly, we now have interest from other major international operators, including Chevron, Curlew Mid-stream and Occidental Petroleum. This further demonstrates renewed confidence in Trinidad and Tobago's energy potential.

“Major international operators are once again investing substantial capital in exploration, development and production activities in Trinidad and

Tobago. Upstream capital expenditure is estimated to exceed US\$2 billion in 2026, with further investments projected at US\$2.3 billion in 2027, US\$2.6 billion in 2028 and US\$1.4 billion in 2029.”

Tancoo said that these investments will support the development of new oil and gas resources, expand offshore infrastructure and optimise mature producing assets.

He said the Government is also incentivising smaller foreign and local private operators to develop and monetise our marginal oil reserves.

“In addition, we are making direct investment through Heritage Petroleum Company Limited, which is executing a drilling and workover programme across producing fields, including East Soldado and South West Soldado,” Tancoo told legislators.

Debate on the budget will begin on Friday. (CMC)

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UN allocates extra US\$75m for violence-hit Haiti, calls for more funding

The United Nations on Monday said that there has been an allocation of an additional US\$75 million to support people affected by violence and displacement across Haiti.

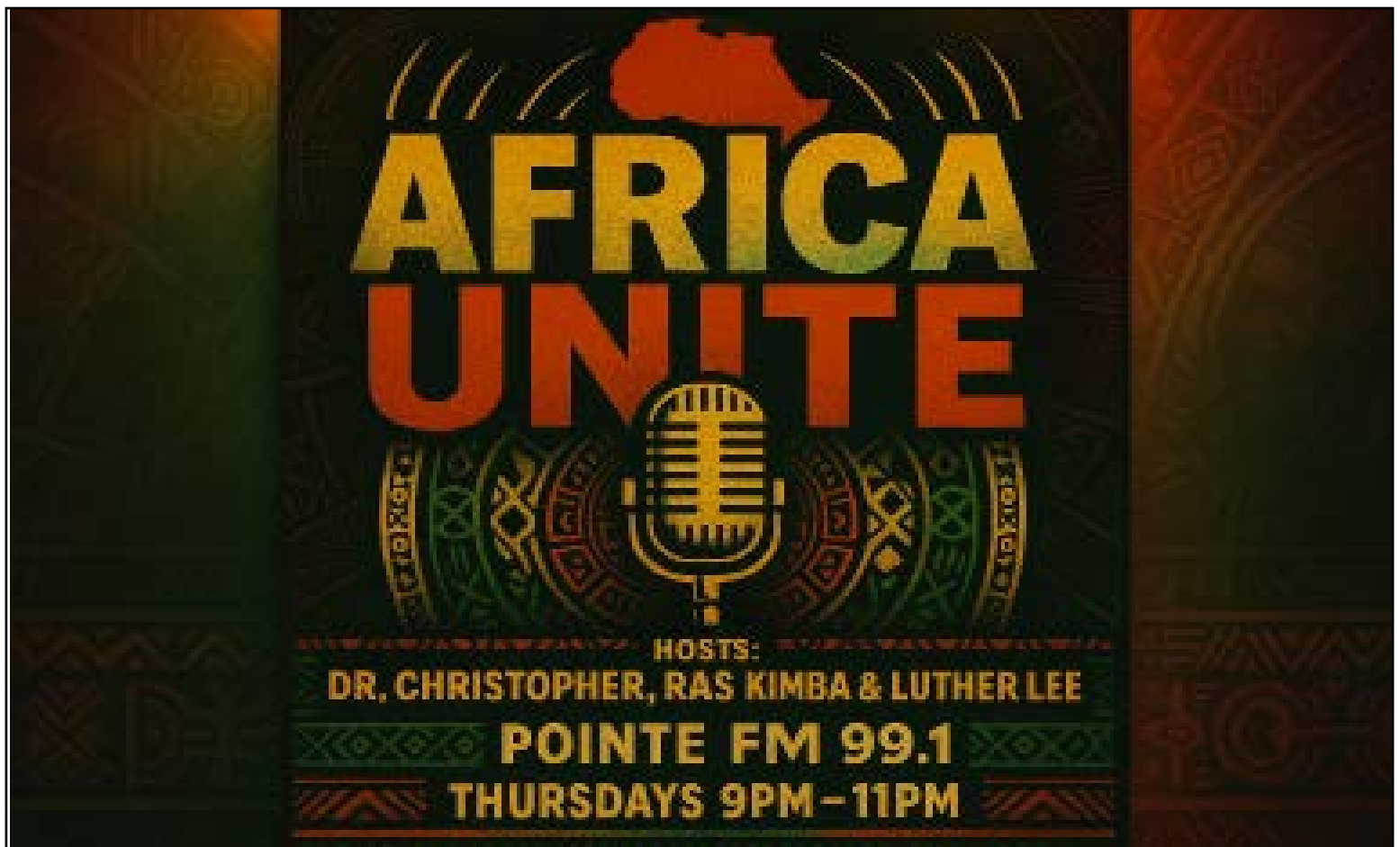
“The funding will support 10 projects in the Ouest, Centre and Artibonite departments, reaching more than 500,000 people with assistance, including clean water, healthcare and shelter,” said UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric.

“Part of the funding will go directly to local Haitian organisations, including a women-led consortium that is working on the front lines of the violence,” he added.

Dujarric said, however, that humanitarian needs remain immense and that more than six million people in Haiti require assistance and 1.5 million have been displaced.



“With the Humanitarian Response Plan still less than half funded, we continue to call for more funds,” he added. (CMC)



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One dead and several hurt after rollercoaster incident at Six Flags



One person has died and several others were injured after an incident on a rollercoaster at an amusement park in the state of Georgia.

The Cobb County Police Department said it was investigating the fatality at Six Flags Over Georgia, about 15 miles (24km) from Atlanta, according to the BBC's news partner CBS News.

Police did not specify which ride was involved, but aerial footage from news helicopters showed the Goliath rollercoaster stopped midway, with riders being helped off by workers.

Six Flags Over Georgia said it was "deeply saddened by the guest incident at our park today. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with the guest's family, friends, and loved ones."

Officials have not said how the person died, or how the other riders were injured. The BBC has contacted local police and fire authorities, as well as park officials.

The identity of the person who died has also not been disclosed.

Witnesses told local media they saw a man ejected from the ride - an account of events that the BBC has not verified.

Local outlet 11 Alive quoted a wit-

ness saying the man had come loose from his seat, and had then struck the rollercoaster and some of his fellow riders before falling onto the roof of a nearby haunted house attraction.

The incident was captured in souvenir photos that were automatically taken of the rollercoaster while it was in motion, the witness added.

A husband and wife also told 11 Alive that the man had been ejected from the rollercoaster and had struck it afterwards. The couple said workers at the park had checked their safety harnesses before the ride set off.

An annotated aerial image shows the Goliath rollercoaster located within the Six Flags Over Georgia amusement park. An inset map shows the location of Atlanta, and wider Georgia, within the United States

A park spokesperson said in a statement that its team and local authorities had responded immediately, and they were co-operating on an investigation into the incident.

Mableton Mayor Michael Owens said the city's public safety director was co-ordinating with local police and park security on the situation.

The Goliath ride opened in 2006, and it has an elevation of 200ft (60m), a 170ft plunge, a 540-degree spiral, and a speed of up to 70mph (112km/h), according to the park website. On its "thrill scale", Six Flags ranks Goliath at level four out of five.

Six Flags is the largest amusement park operator in North America, with 20 amusement parks, 14 water parks and nine resorts across Canada, the US and Mexico.

After the incident in Georgia, Six Flags also said it had temporarily closed similar attractions across its parks "out of an abundance of caution".

The death in Georgia comes just weeks after one of Six Flags' parks in southern California announced it would close the popular X2 roller coaster after more than 100 people alleged brain injuries from the ride.

Six Flags said that ride had passed a range of safety tests, but that it had decided to retire the attraction because it was "the right thing to do". (BBC)

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Man killed in tiger attack identified as William Chapman

The man who was killed by a tiger after entering its enclosure at a wildlife park has been identified as William Chapman, the BBC understands.

Chapman entered the enclosure at Yorkshire Wildlife Park near Doncaster shortly after 13:30 BST on Saturday and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to South Yorkshire Police.

An eyewitness described seeing him wearing headphones and “pacing around” near the enclosure before he went in and was attacked. Police confirmed he was visiting the park on his own.

A force spokesperson said his family was aware and was being supported by specialist officers. The park was evacuated after the incident and remains closed as investigations continue.

City of Doncaster Council has also launched a health and safety investigation into the death, which a spokesperson said was “in line with our statutory duties”.

Yorkshire Wildlife Park said their “thoughts and heartfelt sympathies” were with the man’s family and confirmed the rare Amur tiger, called Altai, remained in the enclosure and would not be euthanised.

Chapman, described by eyewitnesses as in his 20s, was reported to have entered the enclosure after climbing down from a walkway.

Those who saw the attack said some witnesses had tried unsuccessfully to distract the tiger.

A video posted on a social media account believed to be Chapman’s appears to show the moments before the attack.

In the footage, shot on a mobile phone, the inside of the enclosure can be seen as he approaches the tiger - perched on a wooden platform - across a patch of grass.



Shouts of concern, urging him to get out, can be heard.

The video ends, and the account has now been removed.

A spokesperson for the Born Free Foundation, which campaigns to phase out zoos, called for an “urgent review” into “how the man managed to enter the enclosure and what happened next”.

Dr Campbell Murn, a previous member of the government’s zoo expert committee and lecturer at the University of Reading, said while it was a tragic incident, determined people could get inside zoo enclosures.

“I view it in the same way a determined thief will get into somebody’s house or somebody’s car and despite the best security systems and enclosures sometimes these things happen,” he said.

She described seeing Chapman by the tiger enclosure “pacing around with his headphones in”.

A few minutes later, she saw he had “climbed up onto the barriers”.

A woman was close by talking to him, she said, before “he jumped in and crawled in front of the tiger, where the tiger was perched and just lay there”.

Ford said she then witnessed the tiger grab hold of him, and he was “shouting for help”.

She estimates around 15 to 20 people were on the enclosure’s raised visitor walkway before staff quickly evacuated the area, and shortly afterwards, the park.

She described members of the public as being “confused, like what on earth’s going on?”

“I just know some man was obviously trying to bang on the fence to try and deter the tiger away, but it obviously wasn’t doing anything,” she said.

Karmelle Pelham, 39, from Worksop, had been enjoying a family day out when park staff told them the site was being evacuated.

She said she had heard what sounded like “gunshots” and an air ambulance had circled above.

Pelham added: “There was a big, black tarpaulin over the tiger enclosure.”

She praised park staff for their handling of the incident, saying it had been “very, very well organised”. (BBC)

Russia strikes energy facilities despite Trump claim of ceasefire – Zelenskyy



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said yesterday that while Ukraine is willing to halt attacks on Russia's energy infrastructure, Moscow has continued to strike his country's energy sites, despite US President Donald Trump's announcement that the warring countries had agreed to cease such attacks.

Speaking at the Warsaw Security Forum in Poland, Zelenskyy said Ukraine had been "horribly surprised" that Moscow struck a power plant in the northeastern city of Kharkiv, as well as a gas production facility and a civilian gas station, hours after Trump announced the purported "energy ceasefire" in the 4 1/2-year-old war.

Later on Monday, during an interview on Fox News Channel's 'America's Newsroom', Zelenskyy said his government had refrained from striking Russian energy sites since Trump's announcement Sunday and was ready to honour an energy ceasefire as "a good first step" toward closing the war.

But, he said, "I'm not sure that (Rus-

sian President Vladimir) Putin is ready."

"Even after yesterday's messages from (Trump) ... Putin attacked our gas infrastructure," Zelenskyy said. "When we speak about energy ceasefire, it means only one thing: that they don't attack our energy infrastructure and we don't respond on their energy infrastructure."

Trump's brief social media post Sunday offered few details but said the energy ceasefire took effect immediately, adding: "Do not break it!" On Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov wouldn't say whether Russia had agreed to such a ceasefire, saying only: "Contacts are ongoing".

Trump previously announced a similar agreement on ceasing energy strikes that did not come to fruition. In a social media post on September 14, he said both countries had agreed "not to hit" each other's energy infrastructure, but offered no details on that proposal either.

Russia has used attacks on energy facilities in order to deny Ukrainian ci-

vilians power, heat and running water during the war, hoping to wear down public resistance to Moscow's full-scale invasion. Ukrainian officials describe the strategy as "weaponising winter", and fear Russia could ramp up such attacks as cold weather approaches.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has launched strikes against Russian energy sites like oil refineries, sometimes deep within Russian territory. That's prompted Trump to blame Zelenskyy for record US diesel prices — rather than the US-led war in Iran — and to strike a deal with Putin on Friday to import diesel from Russia in an attempt to bring fuel prices down ahead of US midterm elections.

Speaking on Fox News on Monday, Zelenskyy pushed back on Trump's claims that Ukrainian strikes in Russia were driving up fuel prices, saying: "Everybody understands that the prices on diesel (don't) depend on our attacks on diesel in Russia. Everybody understands that it depends on the blocking (of the) Strait of Hormuz."

The European Union's top diplomat welcomed the prospect of a pause in energy strikes on Ukraine, but said she sees no sign that Russia is willing to respect it.

"We haven't yet seen that ... Russia will stick to it," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said at a meeting of the bloc's foreign ministers in Luxembourg. "Personally, I would also welcome that the ceasefire would include people not being killed, not only energy."

Trump's deal with Putin to purchase diesel from Russia dismayed officials in the US, Ukraine and around Europe. A bipartisan group of six US senators, including four Republicans, called on the Trump administration

on Sunday to “immediately reverse course” on the deal, saying the US should “not provide Putin with a financial lifeline” while Russia is killing Ukrainian civilians.

Kallas also pushed back on Trump’s comments on Saturday that it was time for Ukraine to get a new president and that Zelenskyy has not done enough to end the war. She said that now is not the time to hold elections in Ukraine, at least not without a ceasefire.

Zelenskyy said holding elections in Ukraine was impossible during war time, especially with new Russian tactics involving attacks day and night. He added, however, that he would be ready to work toward doing so if Ukraine secured a full ceasefire lasting at least 60 days.

In response, Kremlin spokesman Peskov said in a statement that, in case of a Ukrainian election, Putin would be ready to halt strikes on Ukraine “specifically on election day”, and that Kyiv only wanted a 60-day ceasefire “to gather their strength, heal their wounds, and continue the war”.

One woman died and at least five other people were injured after a Russian drone hit a 25-story residential building in Kyiv’s Darnytskyi district Monday night, the city’s military administration said. Earlier in the day, falling debris from Russian attacks sparked a fire in a private residential building in the same area and at least two people were injured in daytime strikes.

Debris also fell in an open area near private residential buildings in the Solomianskyi district, and on a warehouse building in the Darnytskyi district, with emergency services dispatched to the scene.

A Russian drone attack on the village of Pischyn in the Kharkiv district on Sunday evening killed three people and injured nine others, including children, according to the Kharkiv

Regional Prosecutor’s Office. Investigators said the attack struck a densely populated area near apartment buildings and grocery stores and sparked a fire.

Ukrainian air defence forces shot down or suppressed 89 of 121 Russian drones overnight Monday, Ukraine’s Air Force said in a Telegram post. The attack involved one Kh-59 guided air-to-surface missile and 76 jet-powered Shahed-type drones, the statement said.

Strikes were recorded at 15 locations

in Ukraine, while debris from downed drones fell at four locations.

The Russian Defence Ministry on Monday said its air defences overnight intercepted 151 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions, as well as the illegally annexed Crimea and the waters of the Black Sea.

In a separate statement, the ministry said its forces overnight carried out drone strikes on Ukraine’s port infrastructure and a bulk carrier heading to Ukraine’s port city of Odesa with military cargo on board. (AP)



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International

AROUND THE WORLD



First win for CHSS and JSS in school boys under-14 league



Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) and Jennings Secondary School (JSS) both recorded their first win in the Boys Under-14 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League on Monday.

After both teams battled to a 2-2 draw when they met each other in the opening round, Clare Hall and Jennings maintained their unbeaten start to the competition by winning their second encounters.

Clare Hall Secondary School notched up a 3-0 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field.

The goals were scored by Kaleil Burnett in the 12th minute, Maorpy Auantara in the 15th minute, and Nicaoul George in the 33rd minute, as Irene B. Williams Secondary suffered their second loss in as many games.

Jennings Secondary School secured a 2-0 victory over Pares Secondary at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos. Ajay Kirwan scored in the 23rd minute, and Jahkarie Murray had a 42nd-minute conversion. It was also the second defeat for Pares Secondary in as many matches.

But defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA), who both won their opening matches, battled to a 3-3 draw when they met in their second-round encounter at the Golden Grove playing field.

Kaique Martin struck a hat trick, scoring all three goals for SNRA with con-

versions in the fourth, 24th, and 28th minutes. The goals for PMS were scored by Dequan Davis in the sixth minute, Aiquan Scott in the 16th minute, and Kiron Cordice in the 22nd minute.

The Antigua Grammar School and St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS) battled to a 1-1 draw at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

T'andre James scored in the 39th minute for Antigua Grammar School, and Shmarie Joseph snatched the equalizer for St. Mary's Secondary School with 55th-minute conversion.

But the Ottos Comprehensive School defaulted for the second straight match.

After defaulting to Antigua Grammar School in their first-round encounter, the players of Ottos Comprehensive School failed to show up for their second round match against St. Joseph's Academy at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

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Transport Board win final game in business basketball league

Former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) wrapped up their campaign in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on a winning note on Monday evening.

The Transport Board finished with a record of eight wins and four losses from their quota of 12 games in the 13-team round robin league by prevailing 85-69 against the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) in their final encounter in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Elijah Charles shot a game-high

27 points, Ishaan Peets converted 17 points, Lindsay McDonald sank 16 points, and K'omah Telemaque scored 10 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board.

Raheem Charles produced 26 points, Demeitre Leitch sank 22 points, and Ricky Willock scored 15 points for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, which also wrapped up their league campaign after losing for the 10th time during their quota of 12 matches.

Sandals claimed their eighth win in 11 matches by securing a 54-44 victory over the Sledge O'Ballers in the second game of Monday's dou-

ble-header.

Keroi Lee sank 20 points, and Kim Casey scored 11 points for Sandals. Leroy Percival converted 15 points, and Terry Roberts had 12 points for the Sledge O'Ballers, who slumped to their fifth loss in 11 games.

The Business Basketball League will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening (today).

Anjo Wholesale will tackle the Sledge O'Ballers at 6:45 pm, and APCMOL will take on Richie's Shooterz at 7:45 pm.


 An advertisement for ACB Caribbean mortgages. The background is red with a yellow house icon on the left. The text 'ACB CARIBBEAN' is in white. Below it, 'MORTGAGES DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU' is in large white and yellow letters. To the right, a family (mother, father, and child) is smiling. Below the family, there are three icons: a house with a key, a document with '50% off legal fees', and a gear with '100% Financing'. On the far right, 'Apply today.' is in large yellow letters. At the bottom right, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

Sports News

Hazlewood leads Australia to victory in first Test against South Africa



Australia's Josh Hazlewood celebrates after dismissing South Africa's Wiaan Mulder on day five of the first cricket test match between South Africa and Australia, in Durban, South Africa, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026. (AP)

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Josh Hazlewood's career-best six for 49 finished off world champion South Africa and helped Australia to win the first cricket Test by 214 runs at Kingsmead on the final day on Tuesday.

Hazlewood took four of the six wickets Australia was hunting for on day five. A target of 421 was always improbable for the Proteas and, from 102 for four overnight, South Africa fell for 206, less than an hour after lunch and within five overs of Australia taking the second new ball.

Australia earned a fourth successive win at Kingsmead and gave South Africa, playing their first Test in 11 months, a first loss in five home Tests.

Middle-order batter Matt Renshaw was easily the standout player. Australia was in strife at 124 for six on day one but his 190 turned the momentum. He added 82 in the declared second innings and claimed the first two wick-

ets of a Test career that began 10 years ago and needed a comeback three years ago.

South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma said they needed someone to bat like Renshaw, and hopes his side can rally in the second of three Tests, starting on Sunday in Gqeberha.

Opening batter Aiden Markram led South Africa's fourth-innings resistance for nearly six hours with a 237-ball knock of 75 before he was ninth man out. Markram was caught behind off an inside edge to Mitchell Starc. He was initially given not out but Australia reviewed.

Hazlewood broke the defiant stand between Markram and Wiaan Mulder that started late Monday and endured for nearly two more hours on Tuesday.

Mulder was strangled down the leg side and wicketkeeper Alex Carey snatched a low, one-handed catch. The end of Mulder's 110-ball innings

for 29, after resuming on five, brought in Kyle Verreynne, who was dismissed for one three balls later.

Renshaw also began a second bowling stint and Verreynne tried to cut him but gave Steve Smith a slips catch and Renshaw his second wicket of the innings, and of his career.

Smith did not take the field on Monday evening after he was hit on the helmet while batting and underwent a concussion test. He came out to field on day five after medical reports cleared him.

Markram and Marco Jansen safely reached lunch after a morning session in which South Africa scored only 64 runs in 32 overs,

banking on survival against an Australia attack that was squeezing the Proteas on a fifth-day pitch that did not break up as expected. Australia spinner Nathan Lyon bowled 20 overs without a wicket but conceded just 32 runs.

Markram in the morning became only the second batter in the match after Renshaw to score a half-century and had 69 by lunch. But he lost partners rapidly after Australia took the new ball in the 82nd over.

Jansen was beaten through the gate by a Hazlewood nip-backer on 35, and Simon Harmer went in the same over that gave Hazlewood his 15th Test five-for.

Markram went in the next over and the match finished in the over after that when Hazlewood claimed his sixth wicket of the innings. Renshaw had two for 30 and Starc and Cummins a wicket each.

English soccer's regulator insists no political pressure in Man City case



Manchester City fans wave the team's flag prior to the League Cup soccer match final between Aston Villa and Manchester City, at Wembley stadium, in London, England, Sunday, March 1, 2020. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — The chair of English soccer's regulatory body said Tuesday he would resign if there were any political interference over potential sanctions for Manchester City.

City has been found guilty of widespread breaches of the Premier League's financial rules which could result in punishments including a massive fine, points deductions or even expulsion from England's top flight.

Separately, the Independent Football Regulator has the powers to force club owners to sell and can withhold a license to operate if they are deemed unfit.

An independent panel found the United Arab Emirates-backed City had artificially inflated its revenue by more than \$1 billion over nearly a decade, circumventing fair-play rules.

Football regulator chair David Kogan said it was still awaiting the outcome of City's appeal against the verdict.

The UAE is a big investor in the

United Kingdom. Asked about the regulator's ability to remain independent given wider relations between the governments, Kogan said "any form of political interference on the way we operate is going to result in my resigning from this role and I stand by that completely."

"We've come under absolutely no political pressure whatsoever on this or any other topic. And I don't expect to in the future," he said.

Kogan's comments came after UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he would be "really concerned" to lose City's current ownership. Burnham also said he would not get "directly involved in the process."

City is accused of providing misleading information about its finances over a nine-year period from 2009-18. During that time, it won three titles and signed some of the world's best players. It went on to enjoy a period of unprecedented dominance of English soccer.

The guilty verdict represents the biggest scandal in Premier League history and raises questions over the future of the club, which is owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates and a member of Abu Dhabi's royal family.

The Independent Football Regulatory was established by the British government last year to set governance standards in English soccer. Part of that includes the issuing of licenses for clubs to be able to operate, which will begin from November.

Kogan suggested the guilty verdict would not impact the issuing of a license to City because its appeal is ongoing.

"A verdict once it's gone through an appeal process will certainly be something that we would clearly be taking into account when looking at awarding a license or looking at the owners, directors and senior executives," he said.

Winning starts for Hoppers and Tigers in Premier Division



Players of the Potters Tigers (red and white uniform) and Old Road FC compete during their Premier Division encounter at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Monday, October 12, 2026. (ABFA)

Promoted Greenbay Hoppers along with the Potters Tigers got off to winning starts in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Monday evening.

Having spent last season winning the First Division title after being relegated from the Premier Division in the 2024-25 domestic season, the Greenbay Hoppers marked their return to the nation's top domestic league by snatching a 2-1 victory over former champions All Saints United in the opening game of a double-header at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

But it was a severely weakened All Saints United, which saw an exodus of players and national coach Schyan Jeffers from the team that finished runners-up behind champions Jennings Grenades last season, which took an early lead against the Green-

bay Hoppers.

Thorne Braithwaite put All Saints United ahead with a strike in the 13th minute. But the Hoppers did not trail for long, with veteran midfielder Javorn Stevens scoring an equalizer in the 20th minute.

Rodney Lawrence snatched the winner for the Greenbay Hoppers with a 53rd-minute conversion.

Monday's opening game already indicates that it will be a difficult season for All Saint United, who are now being guided by new female head coach Nikisha "Tickey" Samuel.

Samuel has a daunting task of being a successful replacement for Jeffers, who won back-to-back Premier Division titles with All Saints United in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons and finished in the runners-up position last season.

The Potters Tigers launched their

Premier Division campaign, also coming from behind to record a 4-1 victory against Old Road FC in the second game of Monday's double-header.

Rakeem Joseph gave Old Road an early lead by scoring in the fourth minute of play. But Keon Greene snatched the equalizer with a 20th-minute conversion, and teammate Ordel Samuel scored in the 35th minute to give the Potters Tigers a 2-1 lead at half-time.

The Tigers wrapped up victory by scoring twice in the second half via

goals from Javorn Benjamin in the 61st minute and Kwami Byers in the 87th minute.

Meanwhile, the promoted Jets Football Academy made a winning start to their campaign in the ABFA's First Division. After winning the Second Division last season, Jets Football Academy launched their campaign with a 2-1 victory against John Hughes FC at the ABFA Technical Center in the opening match of the new First Division season.

Following a goalless first half, Caron Lewis broke the deadlock with a strike in the 58th minute to give John Hughes a one-nil lead.

Ivan Grant got the equalizer for Jets Football Academy in the 70th minute, and teammate Taijah Christian snatched the winner when he scored in the 76th minute.