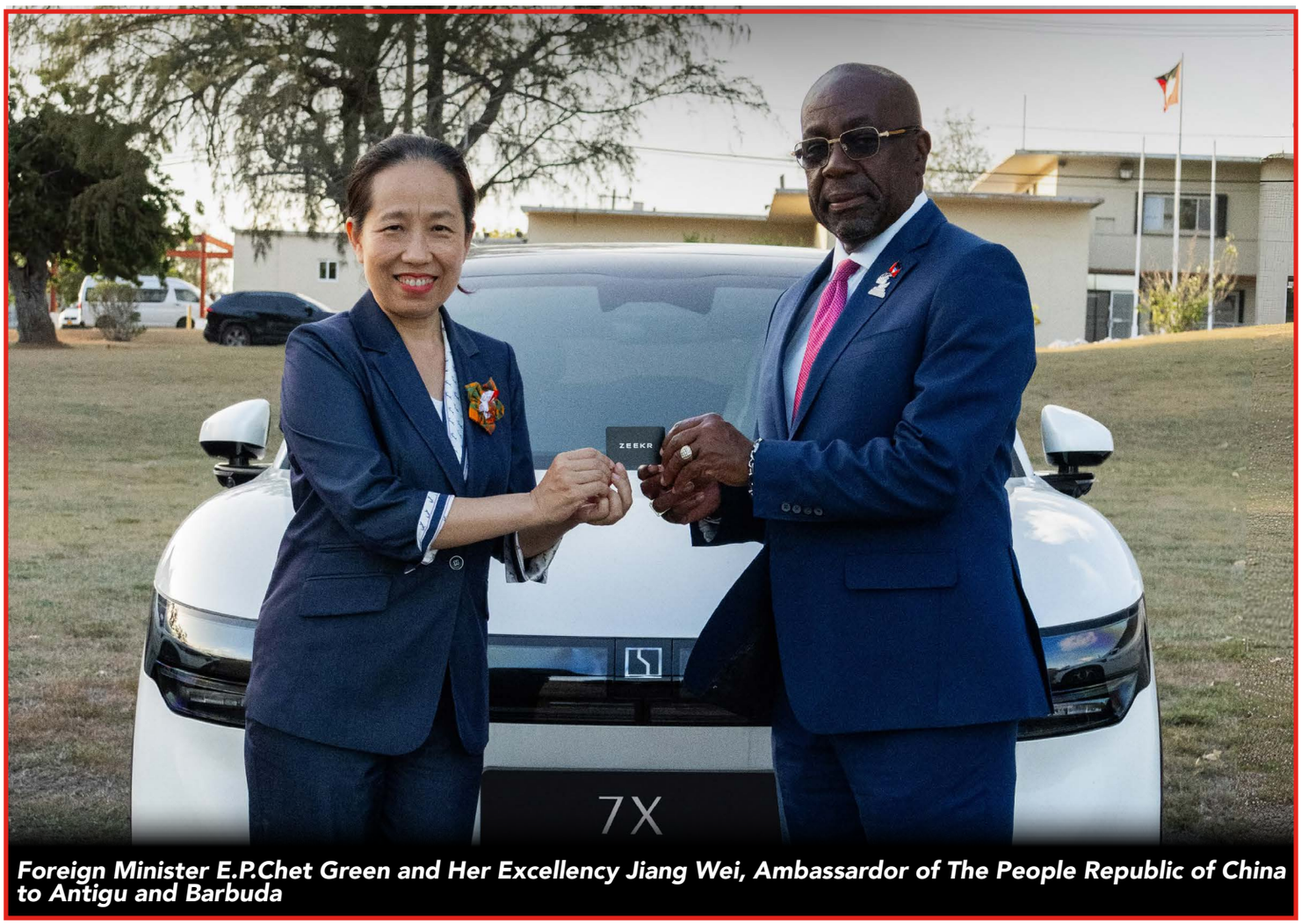
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King Charles Calls Slavery 'A shameful Chapter'

Story on page 2



Foreign Minister E.P.Chet Green and Her Excellency Jiang Wei, Ambassardor of The People Republic of China to Antigu and Barbuda

King Charles Calls Slavery 'A shameful Chapter'



King Charles has described the transatlantic slave trade as a "shameful chapter of history" but stopped short of offering an apology against the backdrop of growing demands in Antigua and Barbuda and across the Caribbean for such an act of contrition.

Speaking at the opening of the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in St. John's on Tuesday, King Charles said that the slave trade filled him with "profound sorrow".

He said the trade in enslaved persons "still casts a shadow" over the association of nations.

There have been calls from some for the UK to make a formal apology for its historic role in the slave trade ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (Chogm) in Antigua and Barbuda, but there was not one in the King's address.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham, who is also at the summit, has previously said he is open to Britain issuing a formal apology but that financial reparations were "not the right answer".

While there was no direct apology, the King did offer some contrition - and there was also an acknowledgement that he had personally learnt more about the legacy of the slave trade.

"As I have said before, that shameful chapter of history is one that fills my heart with horror and my soul with the most profound personal sorrow."

He told the summit: "The more I have furthered my own understanding of the issues, through listening, learning and looking, the more committed I have become to finding ways for us to work in modern partnership to address the wrongs of the past with action for the future."

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne also addressed the issue in his welcome remarks spoke of the need for dialogue to discuss this vexing issue of reparatory justice for the wrongs of slavery. He said the summit here in Antigua and Barbuda should be the start of discussions that will lead to a path forward to resolve this long-standing issue.

According to the Prime Minister, while some question the usefulness of the Commonwealth today, the answer must not rest in history or sentiment alone.

"It must be demonstrated through results: in the opportunities we create, the partnerships we forge and the tangible improvements we deliver in the lives of our people."

Secretary General Shirley Botchwey, in her address, noted that mankind now lives in a world sorely in need of the Commonwealth spirit of always finding a way.

"In a world of fracture and uncertainty, the strength of our values, the depth of our history, and the power of our global network make the Commonwealth an indispensable agent of change.

"Our Charter calls us to principled, practical cooperation. Our network of 56 nations and 2.7 billion people is big enough to imagine change on a global scale…and close enough as a family of nations to make that change happen.

"That is what we are here to do."

The opening ceremony also featured a cultural presentation of dance, music and drama that was a retelling of the Antigua and Barbuda story with music, dance and drama.

Government of Antigua and Barbuda Receives 20 Zeekr 7X Vehicles for CHOGM 2026



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has formally received twenty (20) Zeekr 7X electric vehicles from Geely Motors for use as official vehicles during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026. The vehicles, provided under a sponsorship arrangement, arrived at St. John's Harbour on 1 November 2026 and were formally handed over on Monday, 2 November, at Camp Blizzard.

The handover was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene, and Chair of the CHOGM 2026 Taskforce; Her Excellency Jiang Wei, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda; and Ms Bao Huanke (Echo), Marketing Representative of Geely Motors (Mexico).

"On behalf of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Gaston Browne, and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, I wish to thank Geely Motors for providing transport solutions in support of CHOGM 2026," Minister Greene said. "It is also my hope that the benefits of this partnership will be felt and seen on our roads long after CHOGM."

The Minister also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for its support in facilitating the partnership.

Ambassador Wei said China was honoured to support Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of CHOGM 2026, as it had for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) and the General Assembly of the Organization of American States. "We hope that this fleet provided by Geely will make a tangible contribution to Antigua and Barbuda's successful hosting of the Commonwealth Meeting," she said.

Speaking on behalf of Geely Motors, Ms Bao thanked the Government for its trust, support and partnership, and expressed the company's hope that the initiative would lead to further opportunities to expand electric-vehicle options in Antigua and Barbuda.

The initiative follows Minister Greene's mandate for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration to pursue sustainable transport solutions for CHOGM 2026. The partnership was secured by the Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Arab Emirates and coordinated by His Excellency Theon Ali, the Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission, who also serves as Ambassador to the State of Qatar and Non-Resident Ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic. Ambassador Ali worked closely with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in St. John's and the Ministry's headquarters to bring the partnership to fruition.

The twenty (20) electric vehicles strengthen the Government's official delegation transport capacity for CHOGM 2026 while supporting Antigua and Barbuda's broader interest in sustainable, lower-emission transportation.

Top Business Executives Meet King Charles 111

Six of Antigua and Barbuda's titans of industry were among individuals who were introduced to His Majesty, King Charles 111, on Monday when he paid a visit to the Business Forum, held as part of the events under the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).



Two females – businesswoman and hotelier, Gaye Hechme and banker, Karen Richardson – were joined by Medical Doctor and businessman, Sir Joseph 'Joey' John, Contractor, Ambassador Patrice 'Baba' Luke, Attorney and businessman, Dr. Errol Cort, Chairman of the Hadeed Group, Francis Hadeed.

The six executives were specially selected for the honour of meeting the King as his visit to the Business Forum was intended to show support for businesses generally, not only in Antigua and Barbuda but across the Commonwealth as well.



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Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation Congratulates Bernard Warner on National Honour



The Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation has expressed congratulations to Bernard Warner, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons Living with Disabilities, who was named an Officer of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit at the 2026 National Honours Ceremony.

At the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Warner has worked closely with government officials, ensuring that the voices of those with disabilities are never left out of the very rooms where national policy is shaped.

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner offered his congratulations, stating, "On behalf of the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, I congratulate Mr. Warner on this well-deserved honour. Mr. Warner reminds us that inclusion is built through consistent, practical action."

For decades, Mr. Warner has been a champion for persons with disabilities, advocating for improved accessibility, employment opportunities and fuller participation in national life for all.

Minister of State Kiz Johnson adds that "Mr Warner has shown up and stood up for persons with disabilities in this country for as long as I have known of his work. This honour is a recognition of his social inclusion work, and our team is proud to count him as a partner."

The Ministry also reaffirms its commitment to working alongside him, the Association and the wider disability community to remove barriers, expand opportunities and build a more inclusive Antigua and Barbuda.



Antigua and Barbuda Joins Global Leaders in Advancing Commitments to Eye Health



Antigua and Barbuda has joined governments and international partners in advancing a renewed global commitment to eye health, as the Global Eye Summit concluded Tuesday at the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Centre.

Delivering the closing remarks, Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs, Michael Joseph, highlighted the significant commitments made during the Summit, describing the outcome as an important step in translating global ambition into meaningful action.

The Minister reported that 57 government commitments had been made, with governments pledging more than US$1.23 billion in domestic resources towards eye health. He noted that the commitments demonstrate a growing emphasis on sustainable, nationally led financing and reducing dependence on external support.

Among the key outcomes, 29 governments committed to prioritising child eye health through expanded school-based vision screening, early detection and improved access to affordable glasses. These efforts are supported by eight private-sector partners and 53 civil society organisations. UNICEF also committed to supporting 25 coun-



tries and screening 90 million children.

A further 42 governments committed to widening access to glasses, including through the World Health Organization's SPECS initiative, improved regulation and the removal of tariffs and taxes to make glasses more affordable for families.

The Summit also saw regional commitments from CARICOM and 18 Pacific Island countries. Minister Joseph underscored the importance of collective action, particularly for small island developing states and geographically dispersed health systems, in overcoming barriers to equitable access to eye care.

Another significant development was the launch of SEE 2045 by the World Health Organization, establishing a global elimination target for cataracts. The initiative marks a major milestone, making cataract only the second non-communicable disease in the WHO's history to receive a global elimination target.

Antigua and Barbuda was recognised as one of the first countries to participate in this global effort, alongside Bangladesh, China, Kenya and Nigeria.

A major outcome of the Summit was the adoption of the St. John's Global Compact for Eye Health, which brings together the commitments made by governments and partners under a shared framework for action, investment and accountability.

The Minister disclosed that the Compact had received endorsements from 187 stakeholders at the time of the closing session. He noted that it would remain open to additional governments and organisations wishing to endorse it beyond the Summit.

He further acknowledged the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) for its work as Secretariat of the Summit, calling on the organisation to continue bringing governments and partners together to ensure that the commitments made translate into tangible improvements in eye health.

Declaring the Compact adopted, Minister Joseph emphasised that the work ahead must now focus on implementation.

"The commitments have been made and the Compact adopted. Now, let us all, together, go and deliver on the promises we have made in St. John's," the Minister said.

The Global Summit for Eye Health was hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in technical collaboration with the World Health Organization, bringing together government leaders, international organisations, development partners, civil society and private-sector representatives to advance a shared global agenda for eye health.

The Global Summit for Eye Health was hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, alongside the Governments of Bangladesh, Guyana, Ireland and Nigeria, which served as co-hosts and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). The summit reinforced the importance of international cooperation in advancing eye health, strengthening health systems and expanding access to quality eye care, while reaffirming a shared commitment to integrating eye health into universal health coverage.



Police Investigate Fatal Collision on Pares Main Road

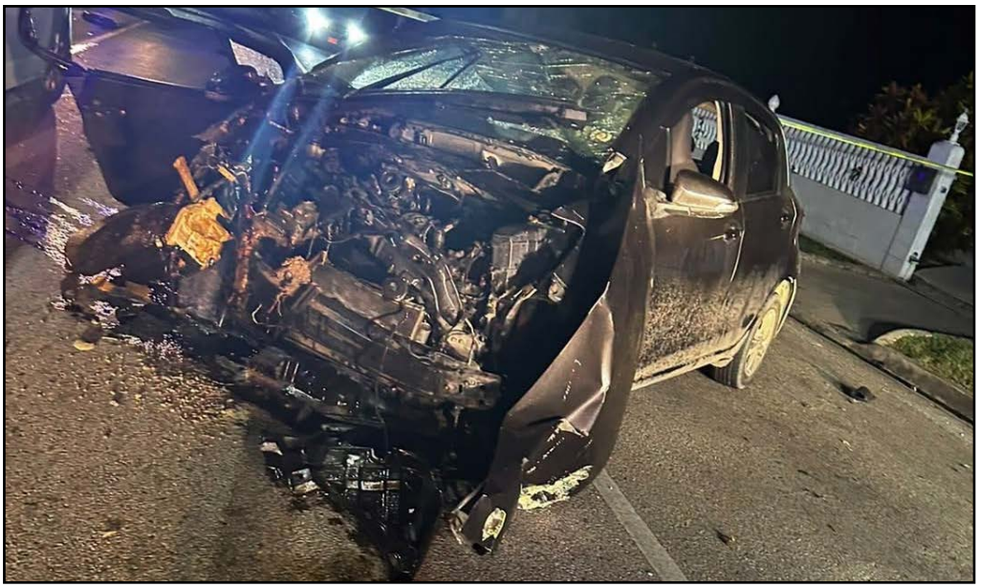
The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal traffic collision that claimed the lives of 36-year-old Sherwin Harding of Skerritts Pasture, and three-year-old Janae Browne on Pares Main Road on Monday, November 2.

The incident occurred at approximately 7:50 p.m. in the vicinity of Welch Supermarket and involved a grey Toyota Vitz motor car driven by Harding.

It is alleged that the vehicle was travelling from east to west along Pares Main Road when the driver attempted to overtake another vehicle. During the manoeuvre, the driver reportedly encountered an oncoming vehicle and attempted to return to his lane to avoid a head-on collision.

The driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle, which collided with a fence and wall along the southern side of the road before spinning and coming to rest on the roadway.

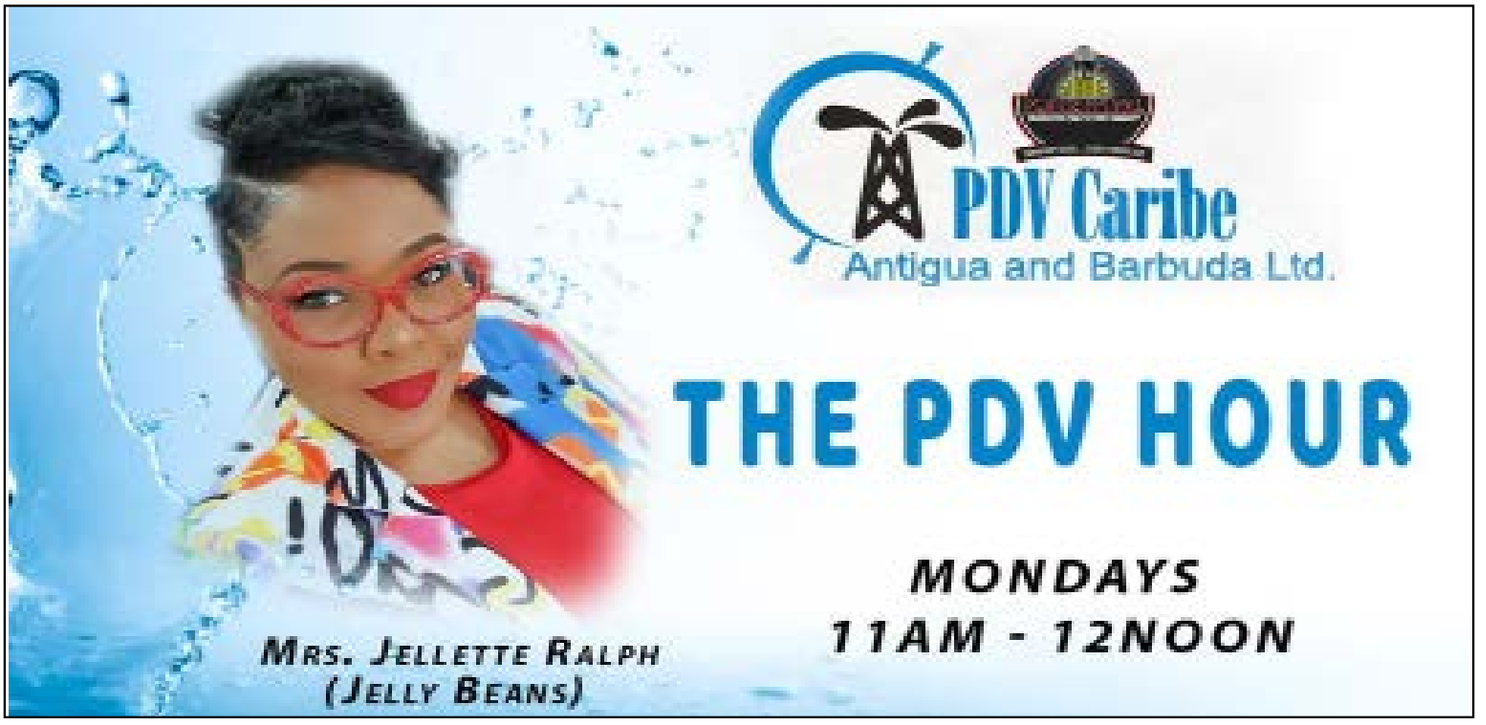
As a result of the collision, Harding and three-year-old Janae Browne sustained fatal injuries and were pronounced dead at the scene by a medical doctor.



Two other occupants of the vehicle, Rashima Moore and three-year-old Jahcari Browne, were transported by Emergency Medical Services to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where they received medical treatment. Both are reportedly in stable condition.

The Police Administration extend heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of both deceased during this period of profound grief, and wishes the injured passengers a full and speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, the police are once again appealing to all motorists to exercise extreme caution and responsibility when using the nation's roads. Drivers are strongly urged to drive within the speed limits, avoid dangerous overtaking, and exercise due care and attention at all times.



ABYMA Welcomes the 44Cup to its 2027 Yachting Calendar



The Antigua and Barbuda Yachting and Marine Association (ABYMA) welcomes the exciting announcement that the prestigious international 44Cup racing circuit will stage two events in Antigua in 2027, further strengthening an already impressive calendar of international yachting and marine events.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2027, the 44Cup brings together some of the world's leading professional sailors and international owner-driver teams, competing aboard identical, high-performance RC44 racing yachts.

Antigua has been selected to host the opening two events of the circuit's anniversary season, with racing scheduled for 27–31 January from Falmouth Harbour Marina and 3–7 March in English Harbour, where the fleet will be based in historic Nelson's Dockyard Marina.

The 44Cup is an international one-design yacht racing circuit built around the RC44 keelboat, a high-performance carbon-fiber vessel co-designed by five-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts and naval architect Andrej Justin. Pitting owner-drivers against professional sailors in strict one-design conditions, the tour combines competitive fleet racing across premier global venues with an emphasis on close, tactical competition.

The addition of these two international events represents another significant milestone for Antigua and Barbuda's yachting industry, demonstrating the destination's ability to attract and host some of the world's most prestigious racing circuits.



India Makes Good Its Promise to Assist Antigua and Barbuda with Vehicles for CHOGM



Antigua and Barbuda was able to respond in a positive way to the demands for motor vehicles to transport dignitaries during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) now underway.

That's because the government of India made good on its promise to help the country with new vehicles to better enable it to cope with the anticipated sharp rise in demands.

Eight Mercedes-Benz electric vehicle luxury buses were presented to Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene ahead of CHOGM 2026. Also included were a set of motorbikes for use by the police outriders escorting VIP's to and from the several events.



The presentation to Minister Greene was made by the Indian Honorary Consul, Vijay Tewani who described the gift of vehicles as a tangible demonstration of his government's support for Antigua and Barbuda as it welcomed representatives from the 56 Commonwealth member countries who were expected to send representatives to the November 1 – 4 meeting.

Minister Greene expressed gratitude to the government and people of India for this timely gift and described India as a 'friend indeed' of Antigua and Barbuda.

A&B Students Showcase Dynamic Sustainability Display for the Historic Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting





In a stunning sustainability display for the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) with Sandals Grande Resort hosting events, approximately 84,047 bottle caps have been transformed into an artistic display of the fifty-six (56) country flags spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Pacific.

The recycling project, valued at more than XCD $40,500, was organized by local non-profit Good Humans 268 Inc. with support from the Sandals Foundation. The flag-making phase engaged 698 students and at least 54 teachers from 39 schools, supported by 35 additional individuals involved in preparation, creation and installation.

The installation features 55 hand-built and hand-painted country flags, alongside an Antigua and Barbuda display flag, bringing the total to 56. Production involved 15 working days, comprising 10 full working days and five preparatory days at John Hughes. International attendees of the CHOGM will be welcomed by an element of the masterpiece as a large Antigua & Barbuda flag is now being displayed inside the V.C. Bird International Airport and throughout the conference. The full bunting of recycled bottle cap flags will adorn the Queen Elizabeth Highway. Following the close of the CHOGM, the flag display will be transported to six public locations around the island to further the sustainability awareness and message.

President of The Good Humans 268, Joshuanette Francis says the project is hoped to raise national consciousness and evoke change. “As Antigua proudly hosts these global leaders, we wanted to create a symbol that communicated to the world that sustainability is part of who we are. Our goal is to change legislation about waste management, to empower people to be active stewards of their community and the environment. Most importantly, we wanted to showcase the beauty of waste and inspire others to adopt sustainable practices,” she said.

The CHOGM Recycling Project is the latest in a series of environmental initiatives the Sandals Foundation has supported with The Good Humans 268. The Good Humans 268 has led a series of recycling initiatives across schools in Antigua since it was founded in 2023.



Governor General His Excellency the Right Honouralble Sir Rodney Williams traveled to Barbuda on Sunday morning to join in the sister isle's Independence celebrations. There was a flag-raising ceremony, which included Sir Rodney inspecting the guard of honour in Codrington. The Governor General also presented awards to Barbudans who have contributed to the island 's development.

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The UWI and CARPHA Strengthen Strategic Partnership to Advance Public Health Research and Innovation across the Region



The University of the West Indies (The UWI) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) have reaffirmed their commitment to advancing public health across the Caribbean. During a commemorative signing ceremony held on October 22, 2026, the two institutions renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), establishing an expanded framework for collaboration in research, education and innovation in the Region.

The five-year agreement builds upon a longstanding relationship between the two regional institutions and reinforces their shared commitment to strengthening the Region's capacity to address existing and emerging public health challenges through evidence-based research, knowledge exchange and other areas of cooperation.

Speaking on the significance of the renewed partnership, Professor C. Justin Robinson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic-Industry Partnerships and Planning, The UWI, who signed the MoU on behalf of Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, stated, "Our region carries one of the heaviest burdens of chronic non-communicable diseases in the world. No single institution can turn this around alone. This renewed agreement is about putting our own house in order, bringing together the region's leading research university and its premier public health agency so that Caribbean solutions are designed by Caribbean minds, for Caribbean people."

Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA, underscored the importance of strategic partnerships in strengthening regional health security and resilience. "The renewal of this Memorandum of Understanding reflects our shared commitment to regional integration, self-reliance and collective action. It demonstrates the determination of CARPHA and The University of the West Indies, two flagship regional institutions, to leverage their respective strengths in service of healthier, more resilient and more sustainable Caribbean societies."

The MoU represents a continuation and expansion of the institutions' previous agreement signed in February 2019, which facilitated collaboration in academic and technical training, health and environmental research, staff exchanges, student internships, among other areas of mutual interest. Under this renewed agreement, The UWI and CARPHA will pursue opportunities for enhanced cooperation across several strategic areas, including disease prevention and control, health surveillance, disaster preparedness and emergency response, climate change and environmental health, food safety and security, and medicines quality and pharmacovigilance.

The renewed agreement builds upon a longstanding and productive relationship between The UWI, and CARPHA which has facilitated collaboration across several areas of public health research, surveillance and capacity building. Notable achievements include the advanced training in Geographic Information for Vector Surveillance (GIVeS), hosted at The UWI St. Augustine Campus in August 2019, which equipped participants from 15 CARPHA Member States with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) skills to strengthen surveillance and response to vector-borne diseases, including Zika. The partnership has also supported regional health security through technical collaboration



to monitor progress, identify opportunities for expanded cooperation and guide the development of collaborative activities.

At The UWI, the Office of Global Affairs, led by Pro Vice-Chancellor Sandrea Maynard, will serve as a connector across the campuses and function as a centralised communication hub for the execution of this agreement, ensuring streamlined coordination and collaboration. At CARPHA, Ms. Cherril Sobers, Specialist, Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships, will serve as the primary point of contact, facilitating communication, coordination and collaboration in support of the implementation of this agreement.

on SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing under the New Variant Assessment Platform. These collaborative efforts demonstrate the institutions' shared commitment to advancing scientific research, strengthening regional public health capacity and promoting evidence-based approaches to addressing the Caribbean's health priorities.

Moreover, the partnership embraces emerging areas of regional and global significance, including One Health, artificial intelligence education and digital competency, technological and scientific innovation, health economics, and public health governance and policy development. These areas reflect the evolving public health landscape and the growing need for multidisciplinary approaches to protecting the health and well-being of Caribbean populations.

Building on their longstanding partnership, the two entities will seek to deepen engagement among academia, public health practitioners, policymakers and communities, supporting the translation of scientific evidence into practical interventions and policies that address regional health priorities. To facilitate implementation, The UWI and CARPHA will establish a joint Overseeing Panel, comprising representatives from both institutions,





From Emancipation to Independence a Three Part Series
Part 1
"Emancipated, Yet Abandoned: What Moyne Revealed"

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

As the season of emancipation 2026 passes, the Caribbean focus shifts to the annual independence celebrations. Every year we move from the celebration of broken chains to the celebration of national colours and flags as though there was a straight line from emancipation to independence and we never mention the Moyne Commission. However, between emancipation and independence there are 100 years of history we rush by and we have forgotten the generations of colonial misrule.

No official document captures the moral and material failure of that interregnum and why independence was nothing less than a second emancipation more powerfully than the report of the West India Royal Commission, better known as the Moyne Commission report.

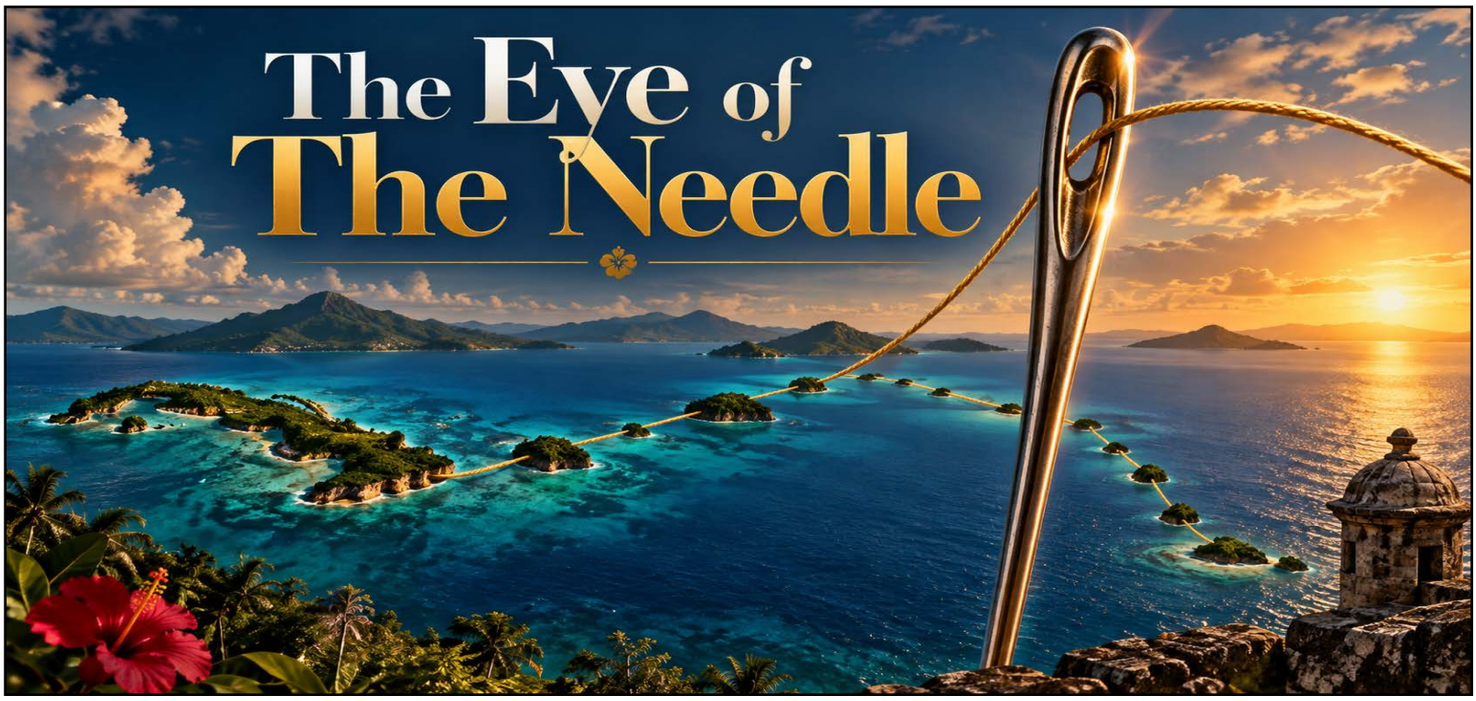
The emancipation settlement contained the seeds of the tragedy in the Caribbean that was cruelly exposed in the report of the Moyne Commission. Britain abolished slavery in most of its Caribbean colonies but compelled the freed slaves to endure a period of "apprenticeship" before full freedom in 1838 and parliament awarded twenty million pounds to the slave owners for the loss of their human property, our ancestors. In stark contrast there was no grant of land, no transfer of capital, no programme of mass education and no restitution for generations of unpaid toil. Nothing! Those whose bodies, labour, families and futures had been stolen received no comparable settlement to the plantation owners.

Emancipation left the economic and political order of plantation slavery intact, the plantations retained much of the best land, and their interests continued to govern Caribbean life. In the pre-independence Caribbean, planter and merchant interests continued to dominate legislatures and those interests were prioritized in legislation, taxation and public spending in the Caribbean. The former slave became a low-paid labourer in an economy organized around the export of sugar and other commodities to a distant metropolitan market.

As signalled in the emancipation settlement planter and merchant interests were to take precedence. Therefore, roads serving estates and ports were treated as economic necessities and while all benefited from these and other amenities designed to support merchant and planter interests, decent village housing, secondary education and preventive health for the masses were too often treated as luxuries the economies could not afford.

The inevitable outcome of such a structure led to the neglect and squalor of the masses that in turn led to the riots and the Royal Commission.

From the mid-1930s, in what has become known as the 1930s riots, workers rebelled across the British West Indies. Oil workers in Trinidad, labourers in Barbados, sugar workers and dockworkers in Jamaica, and working people elsewhere. They rose in protest against the low wages, irregular employment, hunger, daily



indignities of racial subordination and the sheer poverty of life for the masses across the British West Indies. The poverty and suffering were not new, but when the poor and suffering ceased to suffer quietly and had begun, in their desperation, to speak in a voice that empire could no longer ignore, Britain appointed the Moyne Commission in 1938.

The Commission became an official mirror held up by empire to itself and what it reflected was not pretty, but what empire should have expected as the inevitable consequences of its own policies. The Commission reported on a litany of woes from economies perilously dependent on a narrow range of exports (sounds familiar), to wages too small to sustain family life, partial and seasonal employment, deficient diets, overcrowded housing, inadequate sanitation and health services, weak labour protection and political institutions from which most people remained effectively excluded.

The report recommended serious reforms such as investment in education, public health, housing, slum clearance, labour administration, social welfare and land settlement, supported by a West Indian welfare fund of one million pounds annually for twenty years. The reforms were important and led to serious improvements in Caribbean life. The verdict on colonialism delivered by the Moyne Commission report is the element missing from romantic accounts of colonial rule and the nostalgic notions, of some, of a time of order, propriety, prosperity and benevolent governance.

As we celebrate independence we should remember the lessons. The Commission only came after strikes, bloodshed, arrests and fires. Reforms began when Caribbean resistance made inaction more dangerous than concession and even then, the object was largely to repair colonialism, not to surrender colonial power.

This is why Moyne belongs at the centre of our Independence Day reflections. Independence was the political answer to an abysmal documented failure. It was the answer to the incontestable fact that British colonial rule had nearly a century after slavery to turn emancipation into dignity and it did not. I put it to you that it could not because its purpose was the extraction of Caribbean wealth and any advancement of Caribbean people was incidental to that enterprise.

My argument is that emancipation restored legal possession of the self to the formerly enslaved and independence gave them the opportunity for political possession of the state. Neither was complete, but both were indispensable and remain vulnerable to the forces that would return us, in different guise, to the condition of subjects rather than citizens.

Our national flags represent a symbolic break with a system that had been given generations to empower the descendants of the emancipated and had failed. Political independence did not replace a golden age of prosperity, order and competence.

As we celebrate independence, we should remember Joseph Samuel, John Allen and James Archibald of St. Kitts, McIntosh of St. Vincent, Butler of Trinidad and Clement Payne of Barbados. Those heroes whom most know nothing about or care to know led Caribbean people to rise up against their poverty and neglect, forced a reckoning and political independence was the only honourable conclusion.

But whether the promise of emancipation and independence is fully realized depends on whether we, the inheritors, prove worthy of the struggle that won it. In part 2 I address, **What Independence Made Possible and What Political Tribalism Endangers.**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION
P.O. Box 571, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda
Telephone 1 268 464 6377 / 461 3197 E-mail: abreparations@gmail.com
.....towards reparations

21st October 2026

The Rt. Hon. Sir Clive Alderton KCVO
Private Secretary to His Majesty The King
Buckingham Palace
London SW1 1AA
England

Dear Sir Clive,

His Majesty King Charles III – Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2026 and Reparatory Justice

I write on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) welcoming His Majesty King Charles lll to Antigua and Barbuda as King of Antigua and Barbuda, Head of State and also as chairperson of the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), scheduled to take place here in the first week of November 2026.

We uphold the proud legacy and remarkable history of the Commonwealth's engagement in struggles for social justice, particularly in opposing apartheid in South Africa, defending human rights and promoting racial equality.

We see the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting as the ideal platform to advance the Commonwealth's engagement with the question of reparatory justice for the trafficking and chattel enslavement of Africans, the genocide and dispossession of Indigenous Peoples, and the continuing consequences of European colonialism.

We recall the acknowledgement of His Majesty of the Commonwealth's historical connections to slavery and colonialism and his expressed personal sorrow over the suffering caused by enslavers. We celebrate his call for new ways to acknowledge our past and his declaration that 'this is a conversation whose time has come.'

We are aware of the decision of Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Samoa in 2024 – in keeping with the declaration of His Majesty - that the time had come for a meaningful, truthful and respectful conversation on reparatory justice. We regret that the Commonwealth has not managed to formally advance the conversation. CHOGM 2026 presents an important opportunity to give practical expression to that commitment.

We believe that His Majesty's moral leadership and position as Head of the Commonwealth can contribute significantly to encouraging understanding, reconciliation and constructive engagement.

We are inspired by the celebrated statement o**f** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he opined that ***'the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice'.*** The ABRSC recounts the moral direction of human history as it pertains to reparatory justice. We respectfully ask that this history – headlined below and explained fully in the addendum - be brought to His Majesty's critical attention.

- **The 1948 UN Genocide Convention, the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Organisation of American States 2016 American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

- **The Durban Declaration and the Programme of Action,** adopted on **8 September 2001** at the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa

- **The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe 2017 statement** that Europe should confront the legacy of colonialism and the slave trade.

- **The Resolution of the European Parliament of 26 March 2019** on the fundamental rights of people of African descent in Europe.

- **The First and Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024 and 2025–2034) proclaimed by The United Nations** under the theme *'People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development.*

- **The African Union Declaration** of 2026–2035 as the Decade of '*Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparation***'.**

- **African Union Decision** on Qualification of Slavery, Deportation and Colonization as Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide Against the Peoples of Africa (February 2025)

- **UN Resolution A/80/L.48 -** adopted by 123 states that voted in favour, with 3 against - that formally declared the trafficking and racialized chattel enslavement of Africans to be **the gravest crime against humanity**. The United Kingdom is among the 52 nations that abstained.

- **The revised CARICOM Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice: Manifesto for the Coming Enlightenment** that demands reparations from the United Kingdom (UK), Europe and all enslaving nations, for their role in over four hundred years of native genocide, chattel African enslavement and violent extractive colonialism.

- The **'High-Level Next Steps Conference on Reparatory Justice'** held in

Accra/Ghana from 17 to 19 June 2026 on reparatory justice on the trade in enslaved Africans and the racialized enslavement of Africans,

- **THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (CERD) GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 40 (2026)** on reparatory justice for the harms and continuing consequences of colonialism, the trafficking in enslaved Africans across the Atlantic and other routes, and racialized chattel slavery'.

We further note that **the Church of England** of which **His Majesty** is officially the **Supreme Governor** and the Church of Scotland have formally apologised for their historical involvement in African chattel slavery**.** Both churches have acknowledged not only moral wrongdoing but also their institutional connections to the enslavement of Africans and the wealth generated from slavery. Their apologies demonstrate that a continuing ethical institution may and should accept moral responsibility for historical conduct without attributing personal guilt to its present members.

ABRSC affirms that such principle and grace should determine the respective positions of the British Government and the Monarch on reparatory justice. Blanket **'no apologies'** statements from both Government and Monarchy reek of gross insensitivity to the demands of the citizens of the Caribbean, the descendants of those enslaved now forced to live in the aftermath of colonialism. The '***No Apologies***' position represents a shameful British refusal to accept historical responsibility for its role in humanity's gravest crimes. It raises fundamental questions about the British Government's recognition of, and respect for, the inherent dignity and human rights of the descendants of the Indigenous Peoples of the Caribbean and of enslaved Africans.

We would be grateful if you would convey to His Majesty our respectful request and our demand that he will lead this Commonwealth gathering in significant pursuit of historical accountability and reparatory justice.

Sincerely yours



_____

Dorbrene E. O'Marde (Amb.)
Chairperson / Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission

c.c. H.E. Governor General, Antigua and Barbuda
Hon. Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda

ADDENDUM

- **The 1948 UN Genocide Convention, the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Organisation of American States 2016 American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** that provide substantial foundations for contemporary claims for restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, cultural restoration and guarantees of non-repetition to descendants of Indigenous Peoples in the Caribbean and Diaspora..

- **The Durban Declaration and the Programme of Action,** adopted on **8 September 2001** at the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa which represents a major international milestone in the recognition of the historical injustices of slavery, the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism, and their continuing consequences. The Declaration established an internationally agreed political and moral framework for addressing historical injustices, including reparatory measures.

- **The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe 2017 statement** that Europe should confront the legacy of colonialism and the slave trade.

- **The Resolution of the European Parliament of 26 March 2019** on the fundamental rights of people of African descent in Europe (2018/2899(RSP)), adopted by 535 votes to 80 with 44 abstentions, in which Afrophobia is recognized as a specific form of racism connected with colonialism and the trade in enslaved Africans;

- **The First and Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024 and 2025–2034) proclaimed by** The United Nations under the theme *'People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development."* which together represent a continuation of the international commitments made at the 2001 Durban World Conference against Racism and provide a framework for addressing the historical and continuing consequences of enslavement, the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism.

- **The African Union Declaration** of 2026–2035 as the Decade of '*Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparation***'.** The declaration calls on member states to integrate reparatory justice into national policies, educational systems, cultural programmes and diplomatic activities.

- **African Union Decision** on Qualification of Slavery, Deportation and Colonization as Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide Against the Peoples of Africa (February 2025) that establishes a formal African Union position on the historical character of slavery, deportation and colonisation and their relationship to crimes against humanity and genocide.

- **UN Resolution A/80/L.48 -** adopted by 123 states that voted in favour, with 3 against

- that formally declared the trafficking and racialized chattel enslavement of Africans to be **the gravest crime against humanity**. The United Kingdom is among the 52 nations that abstained. The Resolution also:
    - ✧ recognised that the trafficking and racialized chattel enslavement of Africans constitute violations of *jus cogens* — peremptory norms of international law from which no derogation is permitted.
    - ✧ acknowledged that the consequences of slavery persist through structural racism and racial discrimination, and economic underdevelopment and inequalities; inter alia.
    - ✧ affirmed the importance of addressing historical injustices and recognises claims for reparations as a concrete means of pursuing remedy, justice, dignity and healing.
    - ✧

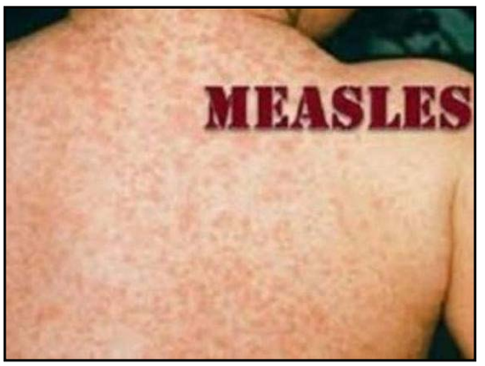
- **The revised CARICOM Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice: Manifesto for the Coming Enlightenment** that demands reparations from the United Kingdom (UK), Europe and all enslaving nations, for their role in over four hundred years of native genocide, chattel African enslavement and violent extractive colonialism.

- The **'High-Level Next Steps Conference on Reparatory Justice'** held in Accra/Ghana from 17 to 19 June 2026 on reparatory justice on the trade in enslaved Africans and the racialized enslavement of Africans, convened under the auspices of the President of Ghana in his capacity as the African Union Champion on Advancing the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans which produced the outcome document titled '**Accra Next Steps Commitments on Reparatory Justice.'**

- **THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (CERD) GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 40 (2026)** on reparatory justice for the harms and continuing consequences of colonialism, the trafficking in enslaved Africans across the Atlantic and other routes, and racialized chattel slavery' that i) places reparatory justice within the interpretation of an existing international human rights treaty, ii) addresses continuing consequences rather than historical acts alone, and iii) strengthens the international framework for examining reparatory remedies**.**


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Belize records 19 measles cases so far this year



Belizean health authorities said yesterday that the country had recorded 19 cases of measles so far this year with the last four cases being recorded in October.

In a statement, the Ministry of Health and Wellness said that the last four cases were detected in the Cayo District, located in the west part of Belize, and it contains the capital, Belmopan.

It said all cases have recovered to date and that contact tracing, ring vaccination, and community outreach are ongoing.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness said it is reminding the public that measles is a highly contagious, serious viral illness with possible long-term complications. Symptoms usually start between seven and 21 days after contact with an infected person.

The illness begins with high fever, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash that starts at the hairline, spreads down to the chest, back, and limbs, and then to the rest of the body.

The ministry said that measles is preventable through the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination, which "is safe and highly effective, with two doses providing lifetime immunity".

The ministry said it was urging all unvaccinated persons to visit the nearest health facility to get vaccinated. (CMC)

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CARICOM issues ministerial declaration ahead of COP

The 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping Monday is calling on countries attending the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 31) to deliver a balanced, ambitious, and implementation-focused outcome that safeguards the 1.5°C temperature goal, advances climate justice, and provides the means of implementation that responds to the special circumstances of small island developing states (SIDS).



COP 31 will be held in Türkiye from November 9-20, and the regional ministers who hold responsibility for climate change and sustainable development have issued a declaration ahead of the deliberations.

In their declaration, the ministers say that climate change represents the greatest threat to the sustainable development, prosperity, and security of Caribbean SIDS, "and that every fraction of a degree of warming increases the risks to our countries posed by stronger hurricanes, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, disruption of livelihoods, and widening social and economic vulnerabilities".

They said also that climate impacts are compounded by insecurity, humanitarian crises and institutional fragility, and emphasise the need for context-sensitive implementation arrangements for countries facing overlapping crises.

In addition, they note that the ecological transition offers an opportunity to mobilise productive investment and accelerate economic transformation and resilient prosperity across the Caribbean.

The CARICOM countries say they are "deeply concerned that the world remains off track to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, that an overshoot of the 1.5°C limit is now likely within the next few years, and that growing geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, conflicts, and competing global crises are diverting attention and resources away from urgently needed climate action".

They said they are also alarmed by the escalating losses and damages already being experienced across the Caribbean, which continue to erase decades of development gains, exacerbate debt burdens, constrain fiscal space, and undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development.

They acknowledge that adaptation is a matter of survival for the Caribbean "and that substantial gaps persist between our adaptation and resilience needs and the financial resources currently available for SIDS".

They are also concerned by persistent constraints that the Caribbean faces to access official development assistance, and sustained, predictable, adequate and additional cli-

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mate finance, on time, at scale and on terms that are affordable and do not deepen debt vulnerabilities.

The declaration notes that the Caribbean recognises the vital role of forests in addressing climate change and safeguarding biodiversity, including their contribution to carbon sequestration, ecosystem integrity, water security, and the livelihoods and resilience of local, tribal and Indigenous communities.

The Caribbean said that meaningful progress at COP 31 must deliver ambitious outcomes that respond to the special circumstances of SIDS "in this era of overshoot and increasing loss and damage.

"We therefore call upon parties meeting in Antalya to deliver a balanced, ambitious, and implementation-focused COP 31 outcome that safeguards the 1.5°C temperature goal, advances climate justice, and provides the means of implementation that responds to the SIDS special circumstances," the regional grouping said.

The ministers want COP 31 to reaffirm "that limiting global warming to 1.5°C remains the central objective of the Paris Agreement and the benchmark against which global climate ambition must be measured.

"We call for urgent action to limit the magnitude and duration of any exceedance of this goal and to return to below 1.5°C as soon as possible. We call once again upon all parties, particularly major emitters, to strengthen their climate commitments and implement rapid, sustained and meaningful emissions reductions consistent with pathways that align with the 1.5°C temperature goal.

"We further urge the timely submission and implementation of ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), taking into account the 2023 UAE Consensus (COP 28), the best available science and the objectives of the Paris Agreement," they said, re-confirming "the centrality of the best available science and traditional knowledge in informing the global climate response, and in assessing that response against the 1.5°C benchmarked goals of the Paris Agreement."

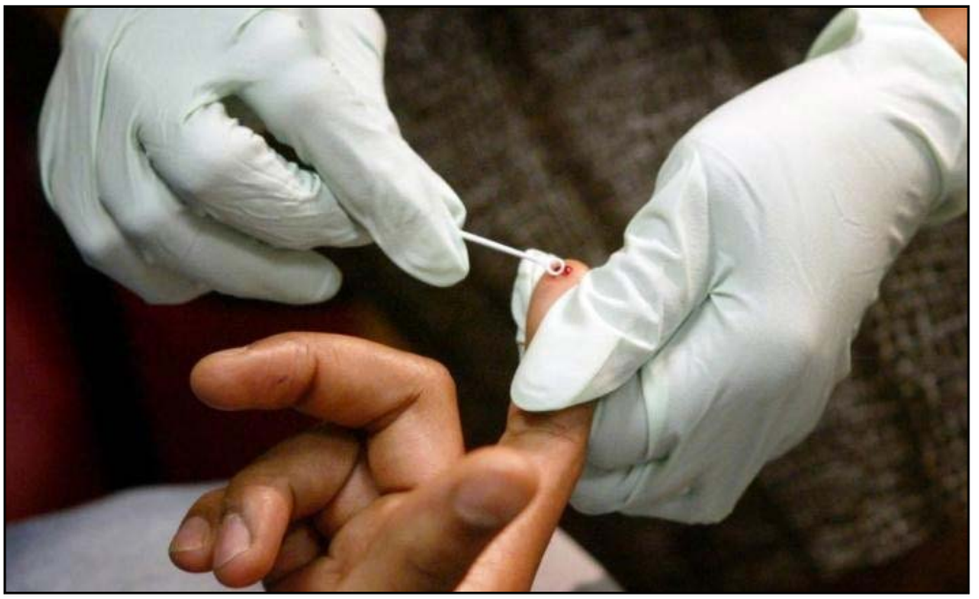
They are also reaffirming "CARICOM's commitment to unity, cooperation, and active engagement through the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Group of 77 and China, and all other relevant partnerships to secure ambitious outcomes at COP 31 that advance climate resilience, sustainable development, and the wellbeing of present and future generations". (CMC)



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Regional News

Study finds opportunistic infections in adults in Guyana with advanced HIV



One in five Guyanese adults with advanced HIV disease included had at least one serious infection linked to a weakened immune system, according to the results of a study released here on Monday.

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) said more concerning, approximately one-third of these infections were detected in patients who had no obvious symptoms.

It said that the findings highlight the importance of screening people with advanced HIV for infections, even when they appear healthy, and ensuring they receive timely treatment.

According to the GPHC, the findings of the study was presented by Dr Tariq Jagnarine at the 19th Guyana Medical Research Conference, held under the theme 'The Evolution of Medicine Through Technological Advancements and Beyond the Stethoscope'.

It said that the study examined the use of rapid tests to detect tuberculosis (TB), cryptococcosis and histoplasmosis among 112 adults receiving HIV care at seven healthcare facilities across Guyana between February 2024 and March 2025.

"These are known as opportunistic infections because they take advantage of a weakened immune system, making it harder for the body to fight disease," the GPHC statement said, adding that researchers found that 21.4 per cent of participants (24 out of 112) had at least one opportunistic infection.

"TB was the most commonly detected, affecting 15.2 per cent of participants, followed by cryptococcosis at 6.3 per cent and histoplasmosis at 2.7 per cent."

The GPHC said that the result of the study matters because HIV weakens the body's ability to fight infections. It said as the immune system becomes more damaged, infections that might otherwise be controlled can become serious and potentially life-threatening.

The study found that approximately one-third of confirmed infections occurred in patients without obvious symptoms. This demonstrates why relying solely on visible signs of illness may result in infections going undetected.

"Patients who tested positive for opportunistic infections also had higher mortality during the study's follow-up period. Within 30 days, 20.8 per cent of patients with positive screening results had died, compared with 6.8 per cent of those who tested negative. By 90 days, the figures were 37.5 per cent and 11.4 per cent, respectively."

The GPHC said that the research also identified gaps in the treatment process. It noted that while all participants completed CD4 testing, 85 per cent completed the full rapid diagnostic screening panel. Approximately 69.3 per cent initiated antiretroviral therapy (ART), the medication used to control HIV, while 60.6 per cent received Septrin and only 38.3 per cent received tuberculosis preventive therapy.

Jagnarine highlighted delayed initiation of ART as the strongest driver of adverse outcomes identified in the study, reinforcing the importance of connecting patients to treatment without unnecessary delays.

The researchers recommended routine screening for eligible patients entering or returning to HIV treatment services, alongside improved access to diagnostic tests, reliable medicine supplies and stronger treatment and follow-up programmes.

"Although the study had limitations, including its relatively small sample size, it demonstrated that rapid screening for multiple infections could be implemented across participating healthcare facilities in Guyana," the GHPC statement noted.

"Ultimately, the findings carry an important message: people with advanced HIV can have serious infections without showing obvious symptoms. Early screening can help identify these infections, but timely treatment and continued follow-up are essential to preventing avoidable complications and deaths," it added.

According to recent estimates from UNAIDS, annual AIDS-related deaths in Guyana are estimated at fewer than 200 people per year. Approximately 11,000 adults and children are estimated to be living with HIV. (CMC)

Diaspora leaders say US mid-terms carry high stakes for democracy, Caribbean

Jamaican leaders in the United States say Tuesday's midterm elections carry profound implications for American democracy, as well as for Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

Voters across the United States went to the polls yesterday in an election widely viewed as a critical test of the country's political direction, with Democrats hoping to regain control of Congress and secure governorships in several states.

The elections also feature several candidates of Jamaican heritage seeking political office.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke is seeking an 11th term representing Brooklyn's 9th Congressional District, while Maryland Governor Wes Moore is seeking a second consecutive term. In Florida, Byron Daniels, whose mother is Jamaican, is hoping to become the state's first governor of colour.

In Lauderhill, Mayor Denise Grant is seeking a full term, while Richard Campbell is contesting a seat as city commissioner.

Clarke, who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus, told The Gleaner she was confident about her chances and encouraged voters to participate.

"I am encouraging all voters to go out and vote today, but I am feeling good about my chances," she said, expressing hope that a Democratic victory would restore congressional oversight of the Trump administration.

Former Diaspora Council member Dr Karren Dunkley said the elections have significant implications for Jamaican and Caribbean communities, particularly in relation to immigration, trade, foreign assistance, regional security and economic partnerships.

"For Jamaica, the stakes are particularly high. Policies affecting our diaspora, remittances, investment, and economic partnerships directly affect families and communities at home," she said.



Dunkley urged eligible immigrant voters to exercise their franchise, noting that their participation could influence policies affecting their communities and countries of origin.

Dr Karen Green, a Jamaican-born American and former vice-chair of the Florida Democratic Party, described the elections as a defining moment for American democracy and the Caribbean diaspora.

She said Caribbean-American voters have a stake in issues including economic security, immigration, healthcare and democratic freedoms, adding that the election was widely viewed as a referendum on the Trump administration.

Green also highlighted the importance of congressional leaders who have supported Jamaica and the Caribbean during natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

Meanwhile, retired educator and registered Republican Dr Rupert Green said the elections presented an opportunity to restore congressional checks and balances, which he believes have been undermined by the administration.

Dr Allan Cunningham said Jamaican-Americans should focus on political representation, economic stability and immigration, while community leader Corey Shearer stressed the importance of voter participation.

"Our only hope, our only chance is that people vote their voice," Shearer said.

Irwine Clare said the outcome would have implications for immigrant communities, particularly on immigration, healthcare, education, economic opportunities and US foreign policy towards the Caribbean.

He argued that the challenge for the diaspora was to translate its growing population into meaningful civic engagement, political representation and influence over public policy. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Indian tourist killed after two helicopters collide near Everest base camp



An Indian tourist has died after two helicopters collided while attempting to land near the base camp of Mount Everest, two officials have confirmed to the BBC.

Verified footage of the crash showed the helicopter blades of the two aircraft clipping each other as they came into land at around 08:15 local time (02:30 GMT) in Pheriche, approximately 12km (7 miles) south of Mount Everest Base Camp.

Helicopter company Fishtail Air named the man killed in the crash as Vasanth Kumar Balaramudu.

The helicopter company said one of its vehicles was involved in the collision and that another passenger and the helicopter's captain had been injured.

The injured passengers and crew members on board were rescued and taken to Kathmandu, Fishtail Air added in a statement.

The injured passenger was a tourist from New Zealand, an official of Solukhumbu district, Bhupendra Thapa, told BBC Nepal.

The other helicopter involved was operated by Air Dynasty and had been carrying cargo, the company said.

It was operated by one crew member who sustained no injuries, it added.

A spokesman for Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority, Gyanendra Bhul, said: "It appears the accident happened when two helicopters... attempted to land at the same spot."

In the video footage of the incident, the weather conditions look clear and no strong wind effects are visible. One helicopter appears to be making a more rapid descent than the other.

Helicopters are widely used for transport in the Himalayan nation due to its challenging terrain. But its rapidly changing weather conditions and high altitude often make aviation operations hazardous.

The village of Pheriche, located on the trekking route to the summit of the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, is just over 4,000m (13,120ft) above sea level.

Climbing expeditions to Everest and Ama Dablam mountain are currently under way in the region, as autumn is a popular climbing season. (BBC)

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US urges Venezuela to release remaining political prisoners



The US has urged Venezuela to release the remaining political prisoners being held in the South American country.

More than 1,000 political prisoners have been freed since US forces seized Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in a military raid on Caracas on 3 January and took him to New York, where he faces trial on drug-trafficking and torture charges.

But Venezuelan prisoners' rights group Foro Penal says 322 people remain in detention.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met his Venezuelan counterpart, Oliver Blanco, on Monday where he called for their release and discussed reforms aimed at laying the groundwork for free, fair, and credible elections, the US state department said.

The release of political prisoners has long been a demand made by Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado.

Machado, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2025, returned to Venezuela on 25 October after living in exile for almost a year. One of her first meetings was with relatives of political detainees.

The National Electoral Council (CNE) - which is dominated by government loyalists - declared the incumbent, Nicolás Maduro, the winner of the election even though copies of the voting tallies collected by the opposition and verified by independent media suggested that the opposition candidate had won.

The Carter Center, which had sent independent observers to Venezuela, also said that the election "could not be considered democratic".

A UN fact-finding mission found that in the months that followed, the Venezuelan government orchestrated "a harsh repression against persons perceived as political opponents or simply because they express dissent or critical views against the authorities".

After US forces seized Maduro, his loyal vice-president, Delcy Rodríguez, was sworn in as interim president.

While Rodríguez has the backing of the Trump administration, opposition parties within Venezuela have been expressing impatience with the slow pace of reforms.

In Monday's statement, the US state department stressed that it remained committed to US President Donald Trump's three-phase plan, consisting of "stabilisation, economic recovery and political reconciliation, and democratic transition".

A week ago, Rubio had told journalists that Venezuela's "election infrastructure" had to be replaced in order for fresh elections to be valid.

"Not in 10 years, not in five years, not in two years; it needs to happen quickly under the timelines that we've established," he insisted.

Days later, Rodríguez told Venezuelans in a televised address that "there will be elections" under a "renewed" electoral authority.

However, she did not give a timeline for when the election could be held.

Opposition leader Machado, on the other hand, has been pushing for elections to be held in 2027.

At one point she suggested 24 July 2027 - the anniversary of the birth of independence hero Simón Bolivar - but she has since returned to calling for a vote at some point in the next year. (BBC)

Jet may have broken apart before Florida crash, officials say, as family named among victims

nvestigators believe parts of a private jet which crashed in Florida and killed all nine on board may have broken off in the air.

The Learjet 60 was bound for the Bahamas from Austin, Texas when it nosedived into a multi-lane highway and exploded on impact.

A tech entrepreneur and his young family, as well as the 20-year-old copilot, were among those who died on Sunday.

The US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said weather conditions would be a major focus of the investigation, but that it was struggling to access the wreckage due to a huge crater on the road which was formed by the jet in Palm Beach.

The plane crashed on Military Trail, a six-lane road that features businesses and restaurants, at around 12:50 local time.

"The biggest obstacle that we're going to have is recovering the major wreckage from the impacted crater on the roadway," lead investigator Tim Monville said at a news conference on Monday.

The NTSB said the crater, near the entrance to a mobile home park, was partially filled with water because of severe storms. Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms had been reported in the area at the time of the crash.

Debris was scattered across sports fields, businesses and homes in the area.

"We do have some evidence that there was some breakup of the aircraft before impact," the NTSB's Tom Chapman said.

"We may find parts of the aircraft some distance away from the actual impact site."

Officials are also trying to find out whether a cockpit voice recorder was on board at the time of the crash and if it can be recovered.

Flight analysis indicates that the jet was plummeting hundreds of feet per second before crashing.

In air traffic control audio recordings, someone in the cockpit can be heard reporting "moderate turbulence" and that



the crew was "managing the ice".

They can then be heard saying the plane was "picking up precipitation" and "we need to climb". Moments later, the same voice said the plane was descending at a rate of 10,000ft (3,048m) per minute.

An emergency was declared and they can be heard yelling "we are in an overspeed condition descending 20,000ft per minute", before saying, "we are going to crash into the ground".

Seven passengers died on board the flight - named in a joint statement as tech entrepreneur Adam Robinson, his wife Helen Sharp, and their two children - Emma, four, and Charlie, two - as well as Rachael Reed, Charmi Fehr and Anita Maria Cetina.

The pilot was named in media reports as Jeffery Gregory, while Nathalia Filgueiras, 20, who earned her pilot's licence when she was 17, was reported to be the copilot.

One man in a car on the ground sustained a leg injury.

Robinson and Sharp's family described them as "devoted parents" and said their children were "the light of their lives".

"Helen and Adam were the love affair that will last forever. Their warmth, generosity and gift for making people feel welcome touched so many lives," the statement reads.

On his LinkedIn page, Robinson described himself as the founder and CEO of RB2B and Retention.com, and the CEO of Moltsets. Helen Sharp was an artist, according to media reports.

Robinson previously worked at global financial services business Lehman Brothers and the banking group Barclays. The BBC has contacted the companies for a statement.

The joint statement also named Anita Maria Cetina and said she "cared for Emma and Charlie with tenderness and devotion, and she was truly part of the family".

It added: "She showed us a legacy of unconditional love and devotion."

Rachel Reed and Charmi Fehr were described in the joint family statement as "full of joy and adventure".

"They loved their people fiercely, fully and without hesitation. From the moment they met, they were all in on each other and the life they were building."

Corteleti told the New York Times: "She loved the freedom. It was completely different seeing the world from the top."

In a 2023 interview with a local news affiliate of CBS News, Filgueiras spoke proudly of receiving her pilot's licence while still a senior in high school.

"I like being different than everyone," she said. "Some people think that it's weird that I can fly planes, but I can't drive a car, I mean I can but, a lot of people think it's funny."

A spokesperson for East Coast Jets, where pilot Jeff Gregory used to work, said: "We are deeply saddened to learn that Capt Jeff Gregory was among those who lost their lives in yesterday's tragic aviation accident in Palm Beach." (BBC)

AGS returns to winning form in school boys under-14 league



Stephen Gilgeours scored both goals for St. Joseph's Academy in their 2-1 win against Irene B. Williams Secondary.

Last season's second-place finishers, Antigua Grammar School (AGS), returned to winning form during the latest round of matches in the Boys Under-14 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League on Saturday.

After suffering their first loss in a 3-1 defeat to defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) in their previous outing, the Antigua Grammar School rebounded to record their third win in five matches by snatching a 1-0 victory over All Saints Secondary School at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

T'andre James struck the winner by scoring the only goal of the match with a strike in the 16th minute, which allowed All Saints Secondary School to slump to their first defeat after drawing and winning their previous two matches.

The Princess Margaret School dropped points but maintained their unbeaten start in defense of their title in a goalless draw with Jennings Secondary School at the same venue.

It was the second draw for the Princess Margaret School in five matches, winning the other three. It was also the second draw for Jennings Secondary School in four matches, winning the other two.

St. Joseph's Academy rebounded from a 2-0 loss to PMS in their previous outing to claim their second win in three matches by snatching a 2-1 victory over Irene B. Williams Secondary (IBWS).

Stephen Gilgeours scored both goals for St. Joseph's Academy with conversions in the 34th and 46th minutes. O'Neil Collins scored in the 31st minute for Irene B. Williams Secondary, who lost for the fourth time in as many matches.

After losing two of their previous three matches, St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS) secured their first win with a 6-2 drubbing of Pares Secondary School.

Setmarkie Benjamin had a double conversion for SMSS with strikes in the 23rd and 44th minutes. St. Mary's Secondary School also benefitted from Jaydon Tavenier's own goal in the 31st minute.

The other goals for SMSS were scored by Ashaun Davis in the eighth minute, Veran Roberts in the 12th minute, and Zeianedre Brian in the 40th minute.

Alric Edwards had a 20th-minute conversion, and Arian Edwards scored in the 48th minute for Pares Secondary School, who slumped to their third defeat in as many matches.



Wins for Sandals and UWI in business volleyball league

Sandals and the University of the West Indies (UWI) recorded wins in the latest matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship.

Sandals claimed their fourth win in six matches by pulling off a 2-1 victory over Nate's Photography at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Nate's Photography took the opening set 25-21 but was unable to close out the match with Sandals winning the second 25-15 to draw level at 1-1. Sandals secured victory by clinching the deciding third set 15-8.

It was the second successive defeat suffered by Nate's Photography after winning their previous three games.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) recorded their third win in five matches with a 2-1 victory over the Royalton.

The University of the West Indies made a good start to the game by taking the opening set 25-12. But the Royalton hit back to draw level by winning the second set 25-20.

However, the University of the West Indies recovered to close out the match by winning the keenly contested third and deciding set, 19-17, as the Royalton slumped to their fourth loss in five matches.

Action in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Business League Championship will resume with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Thursday.



The Sandals volleyball team



The University of the West Indies volleyball team

Former champions APUA Inet will take on 77 Bus Service at 7 pm, and the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) will meet the University of the West Indies at 8 pm.

The league will continue with a triple-header at the same venue on Saturday. The Media will face Nate's Photography at 7 pm, the Royalton will tackle APUA Inet at 8 pm, and Zamine Enterprises will clash with 77 Bus Service at 9 pm.

Ex-FIFA governance chief says Infantino ineligible for re-election

LONDON (Reuters) - Gianni Infantino cannot stand for a fourth term as FIFA president in 2027 under the body's statutes, former head of the FIFA Governance Committee Miguel Maduro said on Tuesday as human rights organisation FairSquare wrote to member associations urging them to declare him ineligible.

FairSquare had previously urged FIFA to rule that Infantino is ineligible to seek another term as president, arguing he has already served the maximum three terms permitted under the body's statutes.

But Infantino successfully argued that his first spell in charge when he was elected at an Extraordinary Congress in 2016 following Sepp Blatter's resignation, should not count towards that limit because it completed an interrupted mandate.

In December 2022, the FIFA Council had "unanimously confirmed" that the period between 2016 and 2019 does not count as a term of office for Infantino but FairSquare said the reasoning had never been made public.

"Article 33, paragraph two of the FIFA statutes is very clear when it says no person may serve as president for more than three terms," Maduro told reporters.

"Gianni Infantino has been elected three times, he's been president of FIFA for three terms. So in my view, there's no way to reconcile another presidency of Infantino."

Maduro is a Portuguese lawyer who was removed from his post at FIFA in 2017 after he blocked Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko from being re-elected to its top committee. He added the wording of the rule makes no exception for a shortened term.

"The text of the provision is clear, it talks about three terms. It makes no distinction on whether these terms are complete terms or incomplete terms, four-year terms or terms that may be shorter than the four years," Maduro said.



Gianni Infantino

Infantino's re-election prospects were strengthened significantly last month after the head of Asian football endorsed his bid while the support across confederations gives him a commanding position among FIFA's 211 voting members.

Maduro said FIFA's governance framework is unable to hold its president accountable, especially when he stands to benefit from rule interpretations, arguing that existing checks and balances on presidential power have failed.

"That has a lot to do with the weakening of the independence of the bodies that are supposed to control the powers of the president and the political leadership of FIFA," he explained.

"Unfortunately, the recent evidence that we've had is not one of effective control. On the contrary, it is one where the president seems to be free to decide and to do whatever you want."

Reuters has contacted FIFA for comment on Maduro's assertions. FairSquare said it had contacted 52 member associations and although no one has yet responded to the call, its director and co-founder Nicholas McGeehan told Reuters they will be meeting Norwegian football officials on Wednesday.

Norway's football association (NFF) has previously backed FairSquare's official complaint against Infantino over a breach of political neutrality rules.

"Given that the NFF have already engaged the Ethics Committee and the Governance Committee, we are hopeful they will set an example on this case too," McGeehan told Reuters.

"But other associations also need to step up, it can't always be left to the Norwegians to insist on basic rules."

Maduro said member associations have been reluctant to act independently because of what he described as a "climate of fear."

Djokovic becomes oldest Paris Masters match winner

PARIS (Reuters) - Record seven-time Paris Masters champion Novak Djokovic became the oldest match winner in the tournament's history on Tuesday, beating Monaco's Valentin Vacherot 6-7(5), 7-5, 6-1 in the opening round to keep alive his hopes of qualifying for the ATP Finals.

The 39-year-old has endured a tricky season, reaching the Australian Open final and Wimbledon semi-finals while falling in the third round at the French Open and the first round of the US Open.

Djokovic claimed the 102nd title of his career at the China Open last month but suffered early exits in Shanghai and Basel.

With only the top eight seeds receiving first-round byes in Paris, 10th-seeded Djokovic was handed a difficult opener against the in-form Vacherot, who arrived on a five-match tour-level winning streak after lifting the Basel title on Sunday.

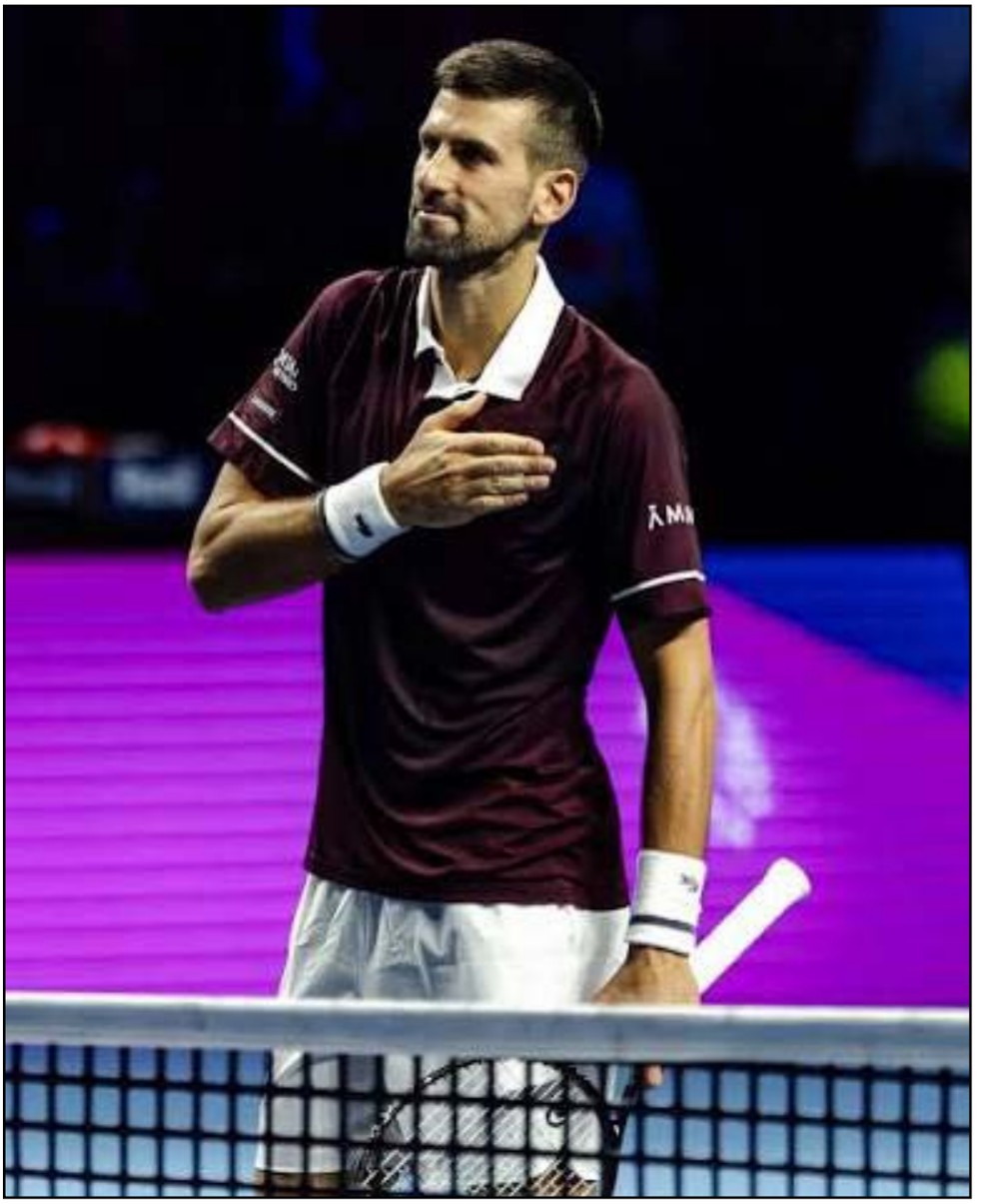
The 27-year-old Monegasque edged a tense opening set, reeling off the last four points of the tiebreak after Djokovic squandered a 5-4 lead with a missed forehand volley at the net.

Vacherot followed up with a backhand volley to earn set point and sealed the opener when Djokovic sent a backhand return long.

Djokovic received a medical timeout for a shoulder issue at 2-1 down in the second set, while Vacherot later required treatment on an ankle problem.

The momentum swung shortly afterwards, with Vacherot's movement appearing restricted and Djokovic capitalising to force a decider.

The former world number one then stepped up a gear, stretching Vacherot from corner to corner and taking control of the contest as he powered through the third set to complete the comeback victory in two hours and 35 minutes.



Novak Djokovic

The pair had met once before, in last year's Shanghai Masters semi-finals, when Vacherot stunned Djokovic before going on to win the title and become the lowest-ranked ATP Masters 1000 champion in history.

Djokovic is 11th in the ATP Live Race to Turin and chasing a 17th appearance at the eight-man event, with rising Spaniard Rafael Jodar currently occupying the final qualifying spot.

With Jannik Sinner sidelined through injury and Alexander Zverev, Carlos Alcaraz, Ben Shelton and Daniil Medvedev already qualified, Djokovic remains in contention for a place at the November 15-22 tournament.

The Serb, who missed the previous two editions through injury, has said he intends to return if he qualifies. He will next face Australia's Rinky Hijikata in Paris.

Sports
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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINT EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Coley takes over from Deitz as head coach of Windies women



Shane Deitz



Andre Coley

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has confirmed that West Indies Women Head Coach Shane Deitz concluded his service with the organization at the end of October 2026, following three years in the role, as he prepares to pursue a new opportunity. The transition has been mutually agreed.

Former West Indies Men's Test Head Coach Andre Coley will lead the women's team on an interim basis for the upcoming series against Pakistan, working alongside the existing support staff.

Coley remains a valued member of the wider West Indies cricket coaching system and has continued to contribute through engagements within the High-Performance Programme, including last year's West Indies Men's A-Team engagement.

His experience across the West Indies cricket system will support continuity as the team prepares for Pakistan.

Under Deitz, West Indies Women reached the semi-finals of consecutive ICC Women's T20 World Cups in 2024 and 2026, an achievement that reflects the team's progress during his tenure.

CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe said, "Shane took this team to two World Cup semi-finals in a row, and that is now the standard this group holds itself to. We thank him for it.

"He told us of his plans, and we agreed together that a clean handover now was best for the team. Andre brings valuable experience from across West Indies cricket system, including last year's Men's A-Team engagement.

"We appreciate his willingness to take on this assignment and ensure that preparation for Pakistan carries on without interruption."

Reflecting on his time with the organisation, Deitz said, "I look back on a successful three years, and I want to thank the players, the staff, and Cricket West Indies for their support. I wish the team every success."

Cricket West Indies said it will provide further updates on the team's leadership in due course.

Editor: Everton Barnes. Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua
Tel: (268) 562-4989 Editorials and Reporting: evertonbarnes@gmail.com; advertising: Sales@pointville.ag.