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"One of the Best CHOGM's Ever"

Story on page 2



The Commonwealth leaders are joined by the head of the Commonwealth, King Charles III, for the family photo at Tuesday's opening ceremony of CHOGM

"One of the Best CHOGM's Ever"











Those are the words of Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking at the closing press conference for the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) 2026 held on Wednesday evening at the American University of Antigua (AUA) near Jabberwock.

The prime minister said that as host, Antigua and Barbuda was keen on ensuring that the 4-day gathering of leaders, delegates and business people from around the Commonwealth was 'consequential' and not one that was going to be seen as another 'talk shop'.

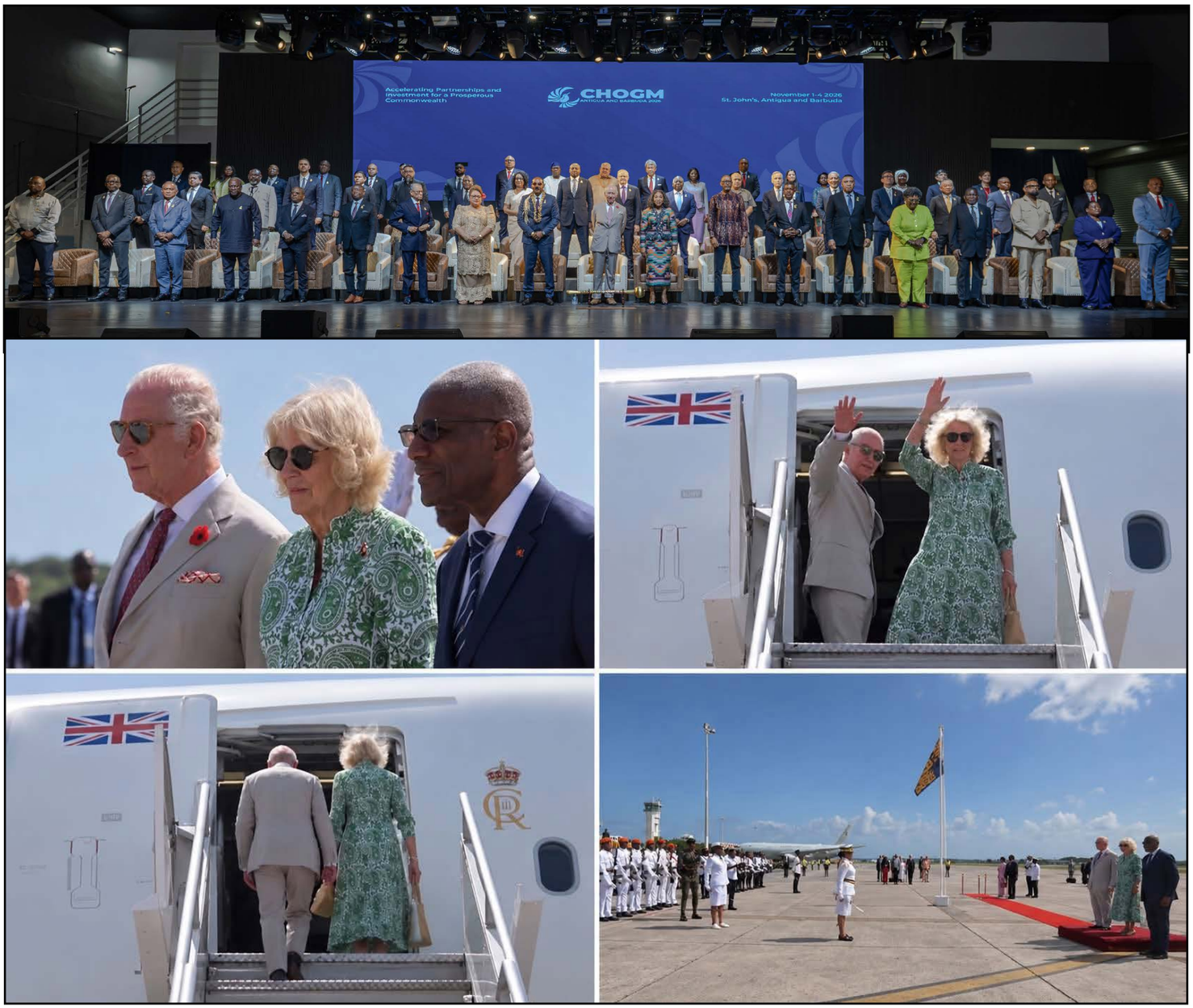
"The success can be measured by the many business proposals emanating from member countries that received careful consideration. What was also important too, was that we had a number of side-events and those side-events were successful. For example, Antigua and Barbuda hosted the first world eye summit and at that conference over US$1.3 billion were pledged. We also had other forums where huge amounts of monies were pledged to support several initiatives," PM Browne reported.

According to the Antigua and Barbuda leader, CHOGM 26 was designed not only for the twin-island nation to be a gracious host, but at the same time, to provide tangible value for the member countries, while building camaraderie among member states.

He noted that CHOGM 26 concentrated on issues of investment and trade as it was recognized that based on the current geo-political environment, Commonwealth states have to look within the grouping to 'help themselves'.

'We have agreed that we will double trade by 2030 as there was a general commitment by the heads to increase intra-Commonwealth trade within the next three years and I believe that this is achievable. That in itself will make us a little more secured in many areas. As you know, within the smaller countries of the Commonwealth, many of us are energy-in-secured and we have agreed that where we can access products within the Commonwealth we would certainly prioritise those engagements for the benefit of the growth and development of the Commonwealth of nations," PM Browne indicated.

Essentially, PM Browne, who now serves as 'Chair in Residence' of



the Commonwealth, said the plan is to make the grouping a 'far more consequential' body of nations; one that fosters greater global solidarity and progress to ensure that there is shared prosperity, not just among Commonwealth nations but also among nations of the world as well.

Secretary General Shirley Botchwey, who is attending her first CHOGM as the holder of the post, noted that 'as promised', CHOGM 26 was a summit of 'ambitions in action'.

"Our four forums; youth, women, civil society and business saw delegates come together from across all 56 member states to discuss our shared challenges, and there are many. Their valuable contributions will guide our work going forward. Our ministerial meetings informed the important decisions which our leaders have taken over the past two days. The open, fraternal and constructive exchanges among leaders at the executive sessions and at the retreat have led to tangible outcomes," she too reported.

One of the decisions coming out of the meeting was an agreement that trade ministers from across the Commonwealth will meet over the next year to further hammer out ways to deepen trade between the member states. During that meeting, the trade ministers will be joined by finance ministers from the grouping.

General feedback, both from delegates and the people of Antigua and Barbuda has been that CHOGM 26 was a resounding success as the nation has been able to prove to itself and to the world that it is capable of hosting major international events of the caliber of CHOGM.

Prime Minister Browne Meets with British Prime Minister Burnham on Margins of CHOGM

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman-in-Office of the Commonwealth, the Right Honourable Gaston Browne, met with British Prime Minister Andy Burnham on the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss matters of bilateral and Commonwealth interest, including:

• Debt restructuring and access to development financing for small and vulnerable states.

• Antigua and Barbuda's financing arrangements and development partnerships.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne meeting with Prime Minister Andy Burnham

• The role and future relevance of the Commonwealth in addressing global challenges.

• Climate finance and the establishment of a Commonwealth-wide mutual insurance mechanism.

• Mobilising international pledges and resources for climate action and development.

• Strengthening trade between the United Kingdom and the Caribbean, particularly in food and agricultural products.

• Shipping routes, transportation





and logistics between the United Kingdom and the Caribbean.

• Cooperation in tourism, services and financial services.

• Climate change, water scarcity, drought and food security.

• Collaboration in healthcare, education, artificial intelligence and digital development.

• Cooperation in multilateral institutions.

The discussion on trade between Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom focused on opportunities to expand bilateral commerce, particularly through increased imports of food and other goods from the UK.

Prime Minister Browne noted that the United Kingdom had historically been one of Antigua and Barbuda's principal sources of imported goods, but that the United States had since become the country's dominant trading partner.

Prime Minister Browne indicated that greater use of British suppliers could also support UK businesses and employment while providing Antigua and Barbuda with more competitive purchasing options. Both sides recognised that the expansion of trade would require attention to shipping costs, the availability of reliable transportation and the establishment of efficient logistics arrangements.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of strengthening bilateral relations and advancing practical cooperation among Commonwealth countries, particularly in support of the development priorities of small and vulnerable states.




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Prime Minister Browne and Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister discuss Enhanced Cooperation on Port Development, Trade and Digital Transformation





Prime Minister and Chairman-in-Office of the Commonwealth, the Right Honourable Gaston Browne, met with the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore on the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda for discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation between the two small states.

The meeting focused on opportunities for greater collaboration in areas including port development, maritime services, tourism, trade, digitalization, artificial intelligence (AI), education and capacity-building.

Prime Minister Browne highlighted Antigua and Barbuda's ambition to develop its seaport into a modern transshipment hub serving the wider Caribbean. He noted that the Government had already invested approximately US$100 million in expanding and modernising the port, with plans for a further investment of a similar amount to advance its development.

Recognising Singapore's considerable experience in port management, shipping and global supply-chain operations, Prime Minister Browne invited the Singapore Government to explore opportunities for technical cooperation and investment. He also proposed that Singapore's port operator, PSA, examine the possibility of participating in the development of Antigua and Barbuda's port.

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the proposal and indicated that he would ask PSA to assess the potential for involvement in the port project. He explained that the company invests in and operates ports internationally and has developed networks linking ports into integrated supply-chain systems.

Prime Minister Browne also proposed exploring a broader cooperation agreement between the two countries, encompassing tourism, maritime and other services, as well as the exchange of technical expertise. He underscored the value of Singapore's experience in economic development and public administration, and expressed interest in opportunities for student exchanges between the two countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Singapore's willingness to explore further avenues of cooperation, particularly in supporting Antigua and Barbuda's development priorities and strengthening training and institutional capacity. He also identified digitalisation and artificial intelligence as important areas for collaboration, noting the need to prepare citizens through education and training to take advantage of emerging technologies and their potential to create new employment opportunities.

Both leaders underscored the importance of stronger cooperation among small states, recognising that collaboration, trust and the sharing of expertise can help small countries strengthen their economic prospects and enhance their collective voice in international affairs.

Prime Minister Browne reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to supporting Singapore within the Commonwealth and other international forums, including on matters relating to candidatures. He also welcomed the opportunity to deepen relations between the two countries and to build a practical partnership that delivers tangible benefits to their people.

Advancing Antigua and Barbuda's Digital Future through International Collaboration





The Hon. Melford Nicholas met with representatives of the International Data Center Authority (IDCA) and IDCA Global Foundation to explore opportunities to support the nation's digital transformation.

Also present were Claxton Duberry, First Secretary at Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Mission to the United Nations; Dr. Simona Marinescu, IDCA Global Foundation Board Member and CEO; and Roger Strukhoff, IDCA Chief Research Officer.

Discussions focused on resilient digital infrastructure, international standards, institutional capacity building, and training to prepare the local workforce for emerging careers in the digital sector. The meeting also explored technical cooperation and next steps, including a joint work plan and information exchange.

Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to partnerships that help build a stronger, more inclusive, and future-ready digital economy.



The performance by our young, talented Antiguans and Barbudans at the opening ceremony of CHOGM



Senator Alincia Grant



Some moments touch us so deeply that words can scarcely capture what we feel. They stir our hearts, lift our spirits and remind us of the joy and pride of belonging -of community.

The performance by our young, talented Antiguans and Barbudans at the opening ceremony of CHOGM on 2 November 2026 was one such moment.

I cried. I bawled. Tears streamed down my face as something rose within my spirit—a swelling of joy, pride and gratitude. Before us stood our young people, performing an original, authentically Antiguan and Barbudan piece with passion and vigour, revealing the extraordinary potential that lives among us.

I was proud. Deeply, overwhelmingly proud.

And as I watched, I thought of those who had gone before them: gifted people who never had access to the resources and opportunities that this performing arts centre now offers. Those whose talents might have blossomed further; whose voices might have travelled farther; whose contributions to Antigua and Barbuda, and to the world, might have been greater had they been given the chance.

Through the dance, through the rhythms of the drum, the nationalistic songs, I felt the call of our ancestors: Do not forget us. Celebrate us. Honour us by becoming all that you can be.

Our history carries the wounds of enslavement—wrongs that no apology can erase. Yet our story holds so much more. It carries creativity, dignity, resilience and the enduring power of a people to rise. In those young performers, I saw that inheritance alive.

Even now, remembering their performance, the tears return. I am so happy for our young people. Happy that they have this space to create, to grow and to discover how far their gifts can take them.

I thank the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Honourable Gaston Browne for the vision and investment in creating a home where these talents can flourish. My earnest hope is that this opportunity will also open pathways to financially sustainable careers in the arts, allowing our young people to earn a living from their gifts while enriching our country's cultural landscape.

Dear Father God, we give You thanks for Antigua and Barbuda, for all our people, and especially for our young. Bless their gifts, guide their steps, and help us to nurture the promise You have placed within them.

May we always remember those who came before, even as we make room for those who will carry us forward.

Thank you, our young people. You made us proud.

Antigua and Barbuda Highlights Progress in Cervical Cancer Elimination at CHOGM 2026 Spouses' Programme Launch

Antigua and Barbuda's progress towards cervical cancer elimination was highlighted during the launch of the Spouses' Programme at the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), as Dr. Cherrie Tulloch, Head of the National Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force, shared the country's experience and key lessons in advancing cervical cancer prevention and care.



Dr. Tulloch outlined the three pillars underpinning the country's programme: strong political will, the commitment and dedication of healthcare workers, particularly nurses, and regional and international partnerships. She highlighted the introduction of the national HPV vaccination programme in 2018, followed by a phased approach to HPV DNA testing, which included a demonstration project in 2022–2023 and a nationwide rollout in 2025. The programme, supported by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Basic Health International, has strengthened screening services, patient tracking and follow-up through the use of digital health records.

She noted that by October 2025, 62.9 per cent of eligible women had been screened, bringing the country closer to the World Health Organization's 70 per cent screening coverage target. The programme also identified 411 women who tested positive for HPV and required follow-up care, underscoring the importance of ensuring that screening is supported by timely diagnosis, treatment and continued patient monitoring.

In sharing lessons for other Commonwealth countries, Dr. Tulloch emphasised the importance of adopting an integrated and sustainable approach that connects HPV vaccination, screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. She encouraged countries to prioritise public education and community engagement, address misconceptions and stigma surrounding HPV, expand access through innovative approaches such as self-sampling and extended clinic hours, and invest in reliable health information systems to strengthen patient tracking and programme monitoring.

Dr. Tulloch also encouraged countries beginning their cervical cancer elimination journeys to assess their existing health-system capacity, identify champions within government and communities, build on established services and learn from the experiences of countries with similar circumstances. She stressed that cervical cancer elimination is an achievable public health goal, but requires sustained national commitment, adequate financing and collaboration. Antigua and Barbuda's experience offers valuable lessons for other small and developing states seeking to strengthen prevention, improve early detection and ultimately eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.



Antigua and Barbuda Signs MOU with Sasakawa Peace Foundation to Advance Blue Economy

Antigua and Barbuda has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Japan's Sasakawa Peace Foundation to strengthen ocean governance and sustainable Blue Economy development. The agreement was formalised on Tuesday, November 3, during the Blue Finance and Innovation Side Event of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026.

The event, held at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre, was attended by Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne, who delivered remarks, alongside ministers, development partners, investors and marine policy experts.

The partnership with the Foundation's Ocean Policy Research Institute will support three key priorities: developing a national Blue Economy Policy to guide a proposed Blue Economy Bill, finalising draft legislation, and advancing a Marine Spatial Planning framework. These measures are aimed at protecting marine ecosystems while creating opportunities for sustainable investment and coastal livelihoods.

In remarks surrounding the signing, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, the Honourable Anthony Smith Jr., said the partnership would strengthen national capacity and policy development. He noted that Antigua and Barbuda aspires to lead the Caribbean in establishing a comprehensive legislative framework for the Blue Economy.

"Today's signing strengthens Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to effective ocean governance and a sustainable Blue Economy," Minister Smith stated.

Opening the event under the theme "Raising Blue Finance to Conserve Our Ocean," Minister Smith stressed the urgency of making conservation financing accessible to small island developing states. He highlighted coral reef damage, coastal erosion, sargassum influxes and rising sea levels as threats to fisheries, tourism and communities.



"For small island states, ocean conservation is not a luxury. It is a matter of survival, economic security, and national development," he declared, calling for practical financing, stronger partnerships and investment that reaches ocean-dependent communities.

In an interview on the sidelines, Minister of State the Honourable Randy Baltimore highlighted the Government's ongoing engagement with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Earlier discussions with the Japanese organisation explored technical cooperation, including responses to sargassum and the possibility of a seaweed management and processing facility, alongside wider efforts to strengthen fisheries and marine resource management.

The MOU builds on that engagement and reflects the Government's intention to turn international cooperation into stronger institutions, responsible use of marine resources and lasting economic opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda.

Antigua and Barbuda and Ghana Explore Cooperation on Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship and Skills Development



Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Hon. Rawdon Turner, and Director of Youth Affairs, Dr. Jrucilla Samuel, today met with Ghana's Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment, Hon. George Opare Addo, and his delegation to exchange approaches to youth development and explore opportunities for cooperation.

The discussions focused on entrepreneurship, apprenticeships, employment, leadership, health and well-being, with particular attention to young people who are outside education, employment or training.

A key area of interest was Ghana's National Apprenticeship Programme, which places young people with experienced tradespeople to learn practical skills within working businesses. The Ghanaian delegation explained that the model includes support for accredited trainers, training equipment and stipends to help apprentices participate.

Minister Turner expressed interest in exploring how elements of this approach could complement Antigua and Barbuda's existing technical and vocational programmes, particularly for young people who find it difficult to remain engaged in classroom-based training.

Dr. Samuel outlined local initiatives, including the Entrepreneurship Edge programme, literacy development, youth leadership and ambassador programmes. She also highlighted collaboration with the Community Development and Citizens' Engagement Division to introduce entrepreneurial thinking and practical business experiences from an early age.



The meeting examined training and work placements through the Harrison Centre, alongside the role of public-private partnerships in helping young people gain experience and move into employment.

The Ghanaian delegation also shared its approaches to business incubation, mentorship, start-up funding and digital skills development. Discussions explored how young people can be supported from the initial business idea through training, registration, financing and growth.

Both sides emphasised the importance of reliable data to identify skills gaps, guide investment and measure programme results. Ghana's delegation outlined its approach to tracking participants across youth programmes, providing a basis for discussion on stronger monitoring and coordination.

Youth health and well-being also featured prominently. Participants discussed substance-use prevention and the need to address the social and emotional challenges that can affect a young person's ability to complete training, maintain employment or build a business.

Further exchanges covered inclusive opportunities for women, persons with disabilities and underserved communities, as well as potential youth employment in environmental sustainability, the blue economy and the transition to cleaner energy.

Minister Turner also acknowledged the contribution of Ghanaian nurses working in Antigua and Barbuda. The meeting touched on possible further exchanges of expertise, including in education.

The discussions concluded with mutual interest in continued contact, sharing policy documents and best practices, and exploring future exchanges involving youth officials and young leaders.

The Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation welcomes the engagement as an opportunity to strengthen connections with Ghana and inform practical efforts to expand opportunities for young people in Antigua and Barbuda.

Permanent Secretary Greenaway to join global panel on partnerships at UN Governance Innovation Summit in Baku



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Rosa Greenaway, will travel to Baku, Azerbaijan, to take part in the UN Governance Innovation Summit: Advancing Future-Ready Institutions, to be held 5-6 November 2026 at the Gulustan Palace.

The Summit is co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It brings together ministers and senior officials responsible for public service delivery, digital transformation and administrative reform, and it responds to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, which recognises the particular constraints small island states face.

On Friday, 6 November, Permanent Secretary Greenaway will speak on the panel Strengthening Partnerships for Effective Governance, alongside officials from Bhutan, Chad, Djibouti, Eswatini and The Gambia. The session will look at how governments can build cross-sector partnerships and adapt successful practices to their own national contexts.

Delegates will also visit Azerbaijan's ASAN Service Centre, a model of citizen-centred public service delivery.

"I look forward to the rich discussion and the sharing of each country's experience and present situation. I am hoping to get some workable takeaways that can enrich what we already have in Antigua and Barbuda," said Permanent Secretary Greenaway.

The Ministry remains committed to making sure public services reach the Antiguans and Barbudans who depend on them most.



Ministry of Health Congratulates J'noure Smith-Kellman on Attaining Master of Business Administration

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs extends heartfelt congratulations to J'noure Smith-Kellman, Public Relations Officer at the Ministry on the successful completion of her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland, graduating with Merit.

Smith-Kellman's journey in Public Service started as a News Reporter and Anchor in 2015 where she developed an appreciation for the health sector before being transferred to the Ministry of Health as Public Relations Officer in November 2018.

Since joining the Ministry, she has played a central role in shaping its public information and communications efforts and translating complex health initiatives and government programmes into accessible information for the public.

While her professional foundation is in communications, the MBA qualification broadens her perspective beyond the technical aspects of the discipline, strengthening her understanding of management, organisational development, leadership and the wider considerations involved in running effective institutions.



J'noure Smith-Kellman

Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs, the Honourable Michael Joseph, welcomed the achievement.

"J'noure's achievement is particularly commendable because it reinforces an important message within the public service: professional growth does not have to be confined to one's current job description. The willingness to learn, acquire new competencies and prepare for greater responsibilities is an investment that benefits both the individual and the organisation."

For Smith-Kellman, the qualification is not simply an addition to her academic credentials but an investment in the next chapter of her professional development. She also regards the achievement as a deeply personal milestone, dedicating it to the memory of her late grandmother, Genevieve Smith, affectionately known as Teacher Gen, who devoted many years of her life to the teaching profession before her passing in 2025 at the age of 91.

Reflecting on the significance of the achievement, Smith-Kellman said that "although she is no longer here to witness this milestone, I carry her memory with me, and it is my hope that this achievement honours, in some small way, the legacy she leaves behind."

The Ministry congratulates J'noure Smith-Kellman on this significant achievement and wishes her continued success as she builds on her experience, knowledge and commitment to public service.




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From Emancipation to Independence a Three Part Series

Part 2

" What Independence Promised, Achieved and Is Now Threatened!

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago were first to independence in August of 1962 and independence in the month of Emancipation was likely not a coincidental choice. Guyana and Barbados followed in 1966 and the Bahamas in 1973. Grenada was the first of the OECS states in 1974 while St. Kitts and Nevis was last in 1983.

I am of the view that the report of the Moyne Commission of 1938, discussed in part 1 of this series is the colonial inheritance against which independence must be judged. The report was hardly the image of the imaginary colonial administration of spotless efficiency, balanced budgets and impartial wisdom, of some Caribbean people.

The Moyne Commission led to serious reforms and improvements that pre-dated independence. Trade unions, nationalist movements, women's organizations, churches, teachers and working people forced significant reforms during the late colonial period. Universal adult suffrage in several territories also preceded the formal raising of the national flag. The University College of the West Indies opened in 1948, labour departments, public health programmes and new welfare measures expanded after the rebellions of the 1930s.

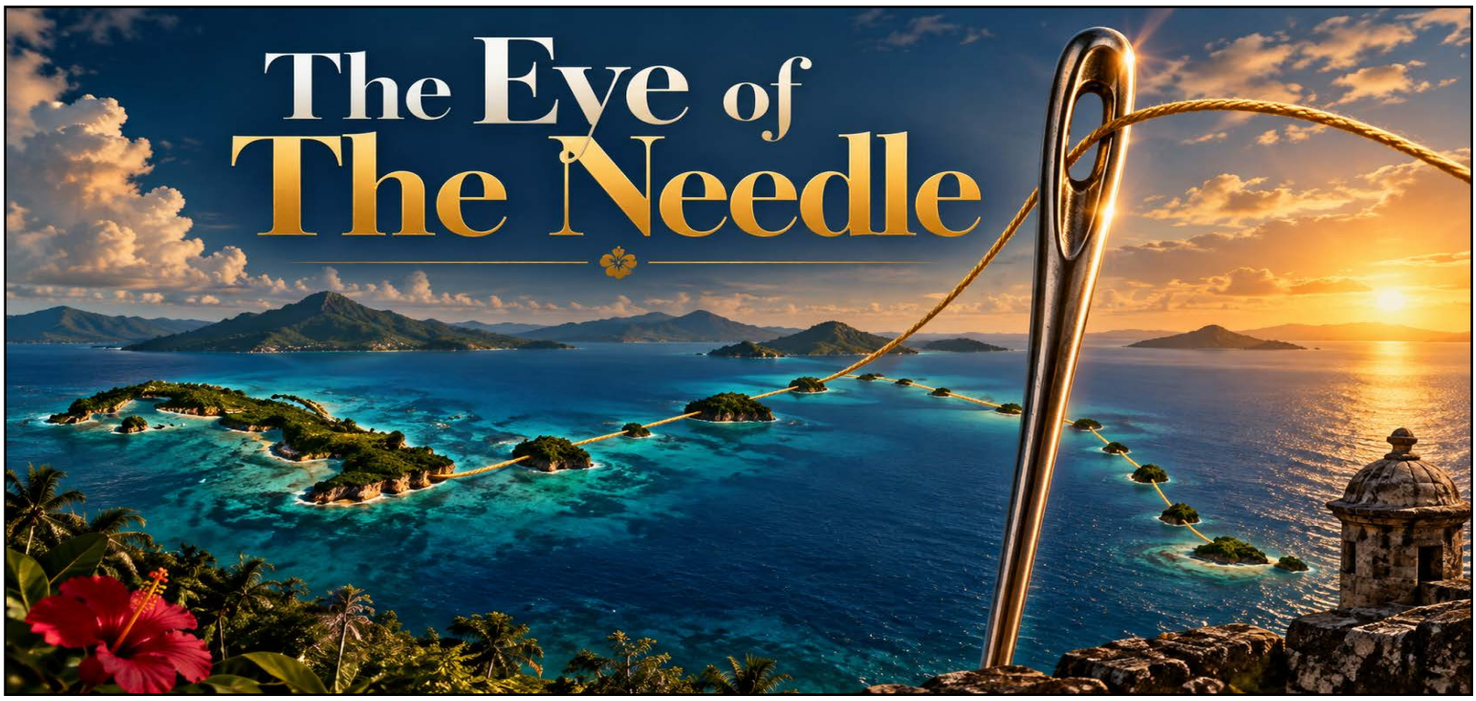
What must not be forgotten after decades of independence is that these gains were steps along the road to independence as Caribbean people agitated and organized to demand a different use of government. It takes a special type of historical amnesia and shallowness of thinking to view them as acts of imperial benevolence rather than what a government accountable to the people and not a foreign capital, the essence of political independence, makes possible.

Independence meant that the vote came with simple adulthood rather than as a privilege of property. Prime ministers could now be removed by Caribbean electorates and national budgets became national choices. The fact that black and brown children could grow up seeing people who resembled them occupying offices from which their ancestors had been excluded by law and by custom has been revolutionary. We now live in a Caribbean where someone like me could become a university principal.

The colonial government could send out commissioners like Moyne and consult West Indians but the independent governments have to face them day in day out as citizens, and that remains revolutionary in principle.

The transformation in the post-independence era is visible across the Caribbean. I want to highlight the cultural achievements as being especially significant. Independence gave a stamp of legitimacy to Caribbean history, language, music, scholarship, sport and memory. Caribbean people, taught for centuries to see Europe as the epitome of civilization (some still do), were now free to place their own experience as the central drama of their national story. Our story was no longer a footnote or curiosity in empire's history.

The anthem and the flag matter after centuries on being non-human and non-citizens!



Caribbean music, reggae, dancehall, soca and our carnivals are the souls of our nations and globally sought after. The Caribbean is the sprint capital of the world, (Usain Bolt, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Kirani James, Ju Ju Alfred) and our cricketers (Sobers, Viv, Lara) have gone way beyond the boundary and reshaped the game. The genius and creativity of Caribbean letters is now taken for granted.

If Lord Moyne were to come back today, he would not recognize the revolutionary improvement in social conditions of Caribbean people. In most of our nations, life expectancy and infant mortality, once appallingly high, are now in line with those of the so called advanced nations. Primary and secondary education are now nearly universal, and tertiary education is no longer the preserve of a tiny elite but a realistic aspiration for broad sections of society.

I can't help wondering if Moyne would complain that many live better than parts of the UK. Electricity, safe water, vaccination, maternal care and modern communications now reach communities that colonial development had left at the margins of concern.

My humble submission is that our achievements have been substantial in the wake of the cruel legacy of slavery, indentureship and colonialism, limited resources and in the face of the real and overwhelming external threats. To confuse independence with omnipotence is to set it an impossible examination and then declare that it failed.

Currently, the largest threat to the independence project is internal and that threat is the poison of Political Tribalism.

Political tribalism is something different from ordinary political competition. Political tribalism converts the state into a means of acquiring and sharing the spoils of electoral warfare. The state is a prize to be captured and plundered, a fatted calf to be feasted upon by the faithful soldiers. With Political Tribalism there can be no notion of the state as an instrument of collective advancement.

In the Politically Tribalistic state the treasured peaceful exchange of power after elections now becomes a source of chronic instability. When governments change years of progress can be undone as the change is seized to punish political enemies and offer political friends a turn to feast at the trough. This is not governance it is a cycle of vengeance dressed in constitutional garb.

Once the state is seen in this light, political opponents become enemies rather than fellow citizens with different views on how to advance the national interest. Every policy is read through partisan lens. Every public servant is suspected of tribal allegiance. Every public commentator is placed in a political camp, and every budget is judged by its distribution of spoils.

In this independence season as we raise and wave our flags Caribbean style the fair comparison is not between the imperfections of present government and an imaginary colonial perfection which the report of the Moyne Commission debunks. Moyne shows where colonial rule left the Caribbean and the distance travelled since then proves that independence was indispensable.

While the independence gains are undeniable so are the imperfections and the current challenges of underachievement, crime, climate and chronic non-communicable diseases, among others. Political Tribalism is the greatest obstacle to the independence project and we must muster the will to fight against it with every tool we can muster. In part 3 I address The Unfinished Emancipation: No Lord Moyne Is Coming


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Abdul El-Sayed makes history as first Muslim elected to US Senate

Democrat Abdul El-Sayed won Michigan's US Senate race over former Republican lawmaker Mike Rogers, US networks said early Wednesday, making him the first Muslim elected to the upper chamber of Congress.

"Michigan, we did it!" El-Sayed said in a speech attended by hundreds of supporters who screamed and hugged each other at his election headquarters in Detroit.

"I am so proud and honoured to stand here as your senator-elect from the great state of Michigan."

El-Sayed won despite a last-minute curve ball in his campaign when congresswoman Haley Stevens, who lost the Democratic primary to El-Sayed, came out in support of Rogers at the 11th hour.

The Michigan medical administrator rallied voters on leftist campaign promises, including universal health care, to win a key US Senate seat for Democrats, taking over from the retiring Gary Peters.

El-Sayed held a nearly six-point lead on Rogers when networks called the race.

"We are sick and tired of being sick and tired. And I'm so proud of all the work. It was boots on the ground. We were always out, but we were never outworked," said party-goer entrepreneur Trunetta Roach, 75, who attended El-Sayed's victory party in downtown Detroit wearing US flag-design diamante high-heels.

"I'm feeling elated. The kids are all right. I was concerned about them. They didn't seem very engaged, but I was wrong. They showed up."

Republicans ran a scorched-earth campaign to paint Democrats as communists and branded El-Sayed a terrorist who would endanger Americans.

But the straight-talking 42-year-old El-Sayed pledged to help cash-strapped voters navigate America's fractured, for-profit health care system.



"You deserve to be able to see a doctor without getting a huge bill," he told Michiganders on the eve of the vote, vowing to upend America's divisive multi-billion-dollar for-profit medical system.

During the race, El-Sayed drew huge campaign crowds across the state, even in deeply conservative Republican areas.

El-Sayed also vowed to get "money out of politics" and address the harsh economic woes that have voters yearning for a political newcomer to shake up the status quo.

The victory made El-Sayed the first Democratic doctor in the Senate since 1969.

"Everybody in politics is so trash. So to see ethical Muslims be at the forefront representing us and showing everybody what we're actually about… it means everything," said micro-influencer Maryam Bozai, 28.

At the victory party, crowds gathered around TVs tuned to left-leaning cable news channel MS NOW, cheering jubilantly each time the Democrat's trademark blue flashed on screen to announce another race won by the party.

"Tsunami! Tsunami!" chanted Ondine Fortune, 64, a Democratic Party media planner.

El-Sayed supporters rubbed shoulders with left-leaning influencers and union activists, a group that lent El-Sayed their formidable campaign infrastructure to reach Michigan's large organised labour community.

Eboni Taylor, a vice-president at Higher Heights which promotes Black women seeking office, said El-Sayed had "gone places where I just would not expect to see him."

"What's most remarkable is that he's showing up in places that are not the usual prescription for the Democratic Party. He's going wherever the people want him to be," Taylor said between social media livestreams and celebratory dancing.

El-Sayed faced Islamophobic attacks and mockery for his Arabic name from President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance. But El-Sayed may yet have the last laugh.

Addressing the vice president, El-Sayed said in his victory speech "you're constitutionally obligated to swear me in in January". (AFP)

Woman running NYC Marathon for charity dies two miles from finish line



A young Pennsylvania woman running the New York City Marathon for the first time to raise money for charity collapsed in Central Park, just over two miles from the finish line, and later died.

Rachel Apa, 24, of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, was approaching the 24-mile mark of the 26.2 mile race on Sunday when she collapsed, according to the New York Police Department.

Her father said she'd been stricken with rhabdomyolysis, a rare condition in which muscles can break down during exertion, poisoning the body. It was her first marathon, Steve Apa told The New York Times.

New York Road Runners, the nonprofit club that stages the race, said in a news release that a bystander administered CPR to Apa, and event medical staffers also did CPR and used a defibrillator. Paramedics arrived and took Apa to a hospital but were unable to save her.

Apa, an industrial-technology product manager and former college field hockey player, had run to raise money for Parkinson's disease in honor of her grandfather.

"It's unfathomable," her father told The Times. He said his daughter, who had just begun a master's program at Charleston Southern University, had been in "perfect health".

Michaela Nicholas was watching the race, cheering on any runners whose names she could discern from their bibs, when Apa passed. Nicholas recalled Tuesday that she called out a message of encouragement, then saw Apa collapse about 15 yards (14 meters) further along the route.

Nicholas, a hospital social worker, said she tried to comfort Apa while two other race spectators performed CPR.

"I just held Rachel's hand and talked to her and told her that she wasn't alone and that she's loved, and I prayed for her," Nicholas, a clinical social worker, said by phone.

The death occurred as the marathon marked 50 years in its five-borough format. Early editions of the race had been run only in Central Park. A record 61,000 runners reached the finish line.

"We are deeply saddened by Rachel's passing following running in Sunday's race. Our thoughts and sincere sympathies are with her family, friends and the entire running community," New York Road Runners said in its statement.

As word of Apa's death spread on Tuesday, money poured into her "Parkinson's Champions" fundraising page, quickly exceeding her $4,000 goal. The fundraiser was sponsored by the Parkinson's Foundation.

On the page, Apa said her grandfather, who had Parkinson's disease and died in 2022, "taught me to stay active, push my limits, and embrace challenges, shaping my love for sports and movement."

Apa worked for TE Connectivity, which makes various electrical components and electronics. The company was grappling with the news Tuesday and expressed condolences.

So did Bucknell University, from which Apa graduated in 2024 with a degree in markets, innovation and design – and a total of 17 goals for the school's field hockey team.

USA Field Hockey, the sport's governing body, said on social media that "Rachel's impact on the sport and those around her will not be forgotten." (AP)

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‘This is a disaster’: Angry Republicans blame Trump for midterms defeat

Inside the Republican Party, initial shock at the stunning election results on Tuesday night quickly gave way to anger with US President Donald Trump.

After Democrats won upset after upset in deep-red states like Texas, Kansas and South Carolina, some Republicans focused their ire on Trump, arguing that his focus on his legacy and indifference to voter concerns cost the party control of Congress.

“It’s on him. It’s not on anybody else. It’s a total, complete rejection of President Trump,” Bill Miller, a top Republican lobbyist in Texas, told the BBC. “This is a disaster of the first magnitude. Nobody saw it coming like this.”

Most Republicans expected to lose control of the House and were clear-eyed about the challenge of holding onto the Senate in a tough election cycle that favoured the party out of power.

But some said in interviews that Trump dragged them down with unpopular policies, a low job approval rating and obsession over construction projects in Washington.

“It was just one mistake after another,” said Gregg Peppin, a Republican strategist in Minnesota. “Clearly, in state after state, people did not like the president’s policies.”

A White House ally said public disapproval with Trump over the Iran war, tariffs and the administration’s immigration crackdown created a “perfect storm” in November.

“There’s palpable frustration [within] the party about how this has all played out,” the person said, and much of it is directed at Trump. Anger with Trump “is extremely high”.

The BBC spoke to a dozen party operatives, campaign officials, White House allies and others, many of whom spoke on background to offer a candid assessment of Trump’s approach to the midterms.



Trump and Republicans had a lot riding on the outcome on Tuesday night. A stronger showing by the president’s party - as happened in 2022, when Democrats under then-President Joe Biden lost just nine seats in the House, and gained one in the Senate - would have given Republicans some momentum heading into 2028.

But Trump will instead face a motivated Democratic majority in Congress that is eager to investigate the administration, block his judicial nominees and stymie the rest of his agenda.

The midterms have ushered in an uncertain new phase in Trump’s second term and may force Republicans to start grappling with their post-Trump future.

“I don’t think his influence is slipping,” said Steve Scheffler, the Republican National Committeeman in Iowa, speaking on the eve of the election. Still, he said, when it came to the midterms, “there were things you wish he said differently”.

Trump was silent for much of the night before posting a message on Truth Social after the House and Senate were called for Democrats.

“I wasn’t on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE! Thank you for your attention to this matter,” Trump wrote.

He said in later interviews with the New York Times and Fox News that he would accept the election results. Trump told Fox he was a “little bit surprised” by the election results, but noted that the president’s party typically fared poorly in midterm elections.

Since 1934, the party in the White House has only gained seats in three midterm elections. While the Democratic gains in 2026 did not set a record, the party did win dozens of House races, state governor contests and Senate seats, including in states where the party had not been competitive for decades.

Before Tuesday, Democrats had not won a Senate seat in Kansas since 1932, and had not won a statewide race in Texas in more than three decades. The party also notched surprise upsets in other reliably red states like South Carolina that were thought to be safe seats for Republicans just weeks before Election Day.

Trump and Vice-President JD Vance held dozens of campaign rallies in the run-up to the midterms. The principal Trump-aligned Super PAC, MAGA

Inc., spent hundreds of millions backing Republican candidates.

Trump allies said it was unfair to hold him responsible for the party's election losses. They pointed to the history of midterm elections, and said the party was saddled with weak Republican candidates in battleground states like Georgia, Michigan and Texas.

Ken Paxton, the Republican Senate nominee in Texas, ran "the worst Senate campaign in the country from either side of the aisle," said another Texas Republican operative, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "If Ken's campaign knocked on 100,000 doors I'd be shocked," the source said. The person added that Paxton's victorious Democratic opponent, James Talarico, ran "a really good and smart campaign."

Others defended Trump's autumn campaign schedule, noting that he had to balance his day job of running the country with midterm travel.

"He's the president. He's not going to spend his time campaigning 24/7," said Krish Mathrani, the Michigan Republican Party's youth chair. Mathrani said Trump's campaign rallies helped drive up enthusiasm among Republican voters. "President Trump is a turnout machine," he said.

That's true in presidential elections. But Trump's vaunted turnout operation has failed to deliver in elections when he's not on the ballot, and 2026 proved no different.

Voters rejected Trump's argument that the economy was better on his watch and that he was achieving his aims in the war with Iran. The effort by Trump to portray Democrats as extreme socialists also fell flat, as voters handed victories to moderates like Roy Cooper in North Carolina.

"That just didn't work with Cooper," said a Cooper campaign official. "Trying to tag him as some socialist liberal, that wasn't going to fly."

Trump was consumed by the war with Iran abroad and his construction overhaul of Washington at home. The projects included the under-construction ballroom and a helipad on the South Lawn of the White House, renovations to a local golf course, a proposed memorial arch near Arlington Cemetery and renovations to the Kennedy Center.

Events like a UFC match at the White House on Trump's 80th birthday in June created the impression that the president was more interested in feting himself than winning the midterms, several sources said. Trump also repeatedly downplayed the rising costs of gas and often cast the affordability issue as a Democratic hoax.

Trump turned his full attention to the election in September at the Republican Party's midterm convention. The event was a gamble: Republicans hadn't held a midterm convention in decades, and it was an open question whether voters would tune in.

Trump dominated the convention in Dallas, frustrating Republicans who told the BBC they wanted to highlight the party's midterm candidates.

In his rambling keynote speech, Trump pledged to give $5,000 (£3,700) to anyone who voted for Republicans and raised eyebrows with an endorsement of Paxton which included a lengthy criticism of the candidate's lack of charisma and physical appearance.

"Obviously, that's never helpful," Robin Armstrong, Texas' Republican National Committeeman, said of Trump's critique of Paxton. "You're not going to stop what President Trump says. We just have to kind of live with that."

The convention failed to attract a large television audience, and Democrats were quick to call it a failure. "It backfired for Republicans because nobody paid any attention to it," said Terri Burke, the Texas Democratic Party's executive director.

Trump's penchant for straying off-message continued when he hit the campaign trail in the final weeks before Election Day. He made headlines for praising Ohio Republican Senator John Husted's physique, and drew criticism for calling Abdul El-Sayed a "jihadist" in the Michigan Senate race.

As Trump criss-crossed the country stumping for Republican candidates, the White House contended with controversies in Washington. Katie Zacharia was ousted after just five days as White House press secretary, and Kimberly Guilfoyle resigned as the US ambassador to Greece after reports surfaced that she asked a donor to pay her credit card debt.

Trump also faced a backlash in October for striking a deal to buy Russian diesel. The agreement, which blindsided members of Congress and drew condemnation from some Republicans, came just weeks after Trump signed a sanctions bill aimed at cutting off Russian oil and gas revenue.

Democrats used the deal and other scandals swirling around the White House to make the case for retaking control of Congress. The messaging resonated in the end, as Democrats flipped both chambers of Congress in convincing fashion.

A second White House ally said that the president's political aides projected optimism until the final days of the election, even as it became clear the party was headed to defeat.

Now, as Republicans take stock of the loss, several said they were ready to look ahead to the 2028 election.

"Whether that's JD Vance, or Macro Rubio, or Ted Cruz, we've got a pretty big bench," said Scheffler, the state's RNC member. "It'll be a wide open race."

Peppin, the Republican strategist, said the midterms results demonstrated the party needed a new direction. "I sincerely hope that we've turned the page from the Trump era, and that we'll have new players, new issues and a new focus moving forward." (BBC)

POINT EXPRESS
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EU urges action as Germany, Romania and UK report supermarket cyberattacks

Hackers raised the temperatures of refrigeration systems at supermarkets in Germany, Romania and the United Kingdom during Monday's cyberattacks, officials said, bringing the number of European countries affected in the hacking spree to at least 11.

The announcements on Tuesday came as the European Union promised a collective response, warning that the attacks, which have spoiled tonnes of food across the continent, were "not isolated".

The motive for the cyberattacks is unknown, and no one has claimed responsibility. A Romanian official said he did not suspect a state actor.

Problems were reported in at least nine EU countries on Monday: Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden. On Tuesday, officials and company representatives said four supermarkets in Germany and six in Romania were affected.

The UK, which is not in the EU, was also hit.

Thomas Regnier, a spokesperson for the EU, said the bloc's agencies were talking with national authorities to develop a joint response.

"These are not isolated incidents, and of course, we have to be collectively resilient and prepared for such cyber incidents," he said.

But he refused to point the finger at any potential culprits.

Romania's top cybersecurity official played down the threat.

"It seems semi-amateurish," Dan Cimpean, the director of Romania's National Cyber Security Directorate, told the AFP news agency. "We do not suspect, under any circumstances, that it is a state actor."

He added that "no other infrastructure was compromised".

Belgium was among the hardest-hit countries on Monday, with dozens of stores across several grocery chains reporting refrigeration failures. Federal prosecutors there have opened an investigation.



In Italy, about 20 supermarkets were affected.

Giuseppe Spadaro, director of a group that runs Coop supermarkets in Sicily, said four of its 300 stores were hit, causing thousands of euros in damage.

"We had to throw away everything. The shelves are empty," he told Italy's Corriere della Sera newspaper.

Italy's government held talks with the heads of the intelligence services and the National Cybersecurity Agency on Tuesday after the attacks, and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's office said the incident had a "limited" impact.

"There is no cause for alarm, although all the relevant institutional bodies remain on high alert," it said in a statement.

In the UK, hackers tried to target small meat-processing firms, but the impact was minimal, said Richard Horne, chief executive of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

Horne told the BBC the issue affected "the whole food supply chain", and that there had been a couple of instances where "vulnerable technology had been exploited".

The second wave of attacks mirrored the cyberattack that swept hundreds of supermarkets across France in October, which also affected stores in several other European countries.

In Sweden, the supermarket chain Coop said that refrigerators and freezers affected overnight at seven of its stores had been connected to "old 4G networks", and that the stores had since resumed normal operations.

Carlos Cancinos, a spokesperson for the chain, said Coop had accelerated an upgrade, begun after the October attacks, to move its connected refrigeration equipment onto 5G networks and modern modems.

"This helps to solve a large share of problems of this kind," he said.

Danfoss, a Danish maker of refrigeration controls whose systems were again among those targeted, said it had been in close contact with customers for the past three weeks. It recommended that the systems not be directly accessible from the internet.

Frank Groenewegen, a cybersecurity expert at Deloitte in The Hague, urged retailers to check whether their refrigeration controllers were connected to the internet and running the latest security updates.

"And if they don't even know, then remove them from the public internet immediately," he told the Reuters news agency. "With disconnecting, you haven't fixed the root cause, but you've at least isolated those systems so that an attacker is not able to do this anymore." (Al Jazeera)

Opposition erupts as Green moves to shut down Cuba vote censure debate



In a move that appeared to catch the parliamentary Opposition off guard, Leader of Government Business Floyd Green last evening called for a critical debate on an Opposition motion to censure the Government to be halted after just two contributions.

After dismissing the Opposition's motion as "absurd", Green asked that the debate be closed, invoking Standing Order 38, which provides for the closure of debate.

House Speaker Juliet Holness put the question to the House and later said that Green's request was supported by the "ayes".

Opposition members rose in unison, loudly protesting the move to close the debate and arguing that several of their colleagues still wanted to contribute.

A standoff ensued in Gordon House, with Opposition members refusing to take their seats even as the Speaker rose in an attempt to restore order in the chamber.

Opposition legislator Anthony Hylton's motion called for the Government to be censured for misleading the House last Tuesday when the junior minister for foreign affairs, Alando Terrelonge, failed to disclose to Parliament the change in Jamaica's long-standing policy in relation to its vote at the United Nations (UN) regarding the lifting of the United States embargo against Cuba.

He noted that neither the state minister nor any other member of the Government informed the House that the administration was considering a change in Jamaica's vote at the UN.

He noted that a day after the resolution was approved in the Parliament, Jamaica abstained for the first time on the United Nations resolution to lift the United States embargo against Cuba.

He also called for the Government to make a full statement to the House within seven days of the passing of the resolution, setting out "when, and by whom, the decision to abstain was taken; when instructions were sent to the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations, and when the explanation of vote was prepared and approved".

Hylton also wants the Government to state whether any approach was made to the Government of Cuba, or any amendment proposed, before the UN vote.

Further, he called on the Government to apologise to the House affirm that "where this House is considering a motion on a matter of foreign policy, the Government has a duty to disclose to the House any change in that policy which it is then contemplating".

But Green rejected the Opposition's claim about the Government's failure to disclose a shift in Jamaica's foreign policy.

"This motion is fundamentally misconceived. It is built on a flawed interpretation of what transpired in the House on October 27 and an equally flawed understanding of the respective responsibilities of Parliament and the executive in the conduct of a nation's foreign affairs," Green said.

He said the Opposition was seeking to manufacture a parliamentary offence when none exists.

Green said the motion moved by the Government on October 27 was read verbatim in the House.

He noted that both sides debated and approved the motion and there was no dissent from the Opposition. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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MV Barima families in ninth week of protests, demand answers



Families and supporters of the MV Barima crew remained steadfast outside the Office of the President on Tuesday, marking the start of the ninth consecutive week of peaceful protests demanding immediate government intervention in the crisis.

Demonstrators continue to press two main demands: the salvage and raising of the submerged vessel MV Barima and the immediate release of its three detained crew members, Delon Grandison, Rondel Roberts and Kevin Price.

Families and supporters of the MV Barima crew hold a picketing exercise outside the Office of the President on Tuesday.

MV Barima families in ninth week of protests, demand answersWhat began as a quiet vigil has evolved into a persistent weekly presence along Vlissengen Road. Holding placards calling for the crew members' release and displaying slogans urging swift action, protesters have made it clear that they intend to maintain their presence until concrete commitments are made.

"Nine weeks is a long time to wait for answers," said Annette Ferguson at the scene.

"Delon, Rondel, and Kevin have families who wake up every day without closure. Raising the vessel and securing the safe return of our men isn't a political issue, it's a human one," another supporter said.

The protesters' focus remains on both the technical recovery of the vessel and humanitarian action. Community leaders insist that retrieving the submerged vessel is vital not only to investigating the cause of the incident but also to providing critical answers to the affected families.

Meanwhile, calls for the release of Grandison, Roberts and Price have intensified, with supporters urging authorities to exhaust every available diplomatic and legal avenue to secure their swift freedom.

While administration officials have previously acknowledged the situation surrounding the vessel and its crew, protesters argue that progress has been far too slow.

As the ninth week unfolds, community representatives say they will remain outside the President's office for as long as it takes to have their demands met. (Kaieteur News)



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Chief Magistrate shuts down third bid to revoke Mohamed's bail

In a tense court session marked by more than two hours of legal arguments, Magistrate Judy Latchman yesterday maintained bail for Leader of the Opposition Azruddin Mohamed, rejecting another prosecution application to have his pretrial release revoked.

The hearing centred on arguments over the interpretation of the Bail Act, allegations of witness intimidation, and whether pending investigations constitute sufficient grounds to deprive an accused person of their liberty.

This is the third time the prosecution has failed in its efforts to have Mohamed's bail revoked. In November 2025, the prosecution was represented by special prosecutors, Jamaicans Herbert McKenzie and Terrence Williams, who objected to bail. In September 2026, Chief Magistrate Judy Latchman also refused to revoke Mohamed's bail, ruling that the court could not interfere with an accused person's liberty based on mere allegations without concrete evidence.

"A pattern of someone who has no regard for courts"

Prosecutor Glenn Hanoman urged the court to revoke bail once again, arguing that Mohamed had repeatedly breached bail conditions imposed in parallel matters and demonstrated a complete disregard for judicial authority.

"When this defendant is placed on bail, those similar conditions were imposed by another court… One of those conditions is that he does not take his bail with the prosecution witness," the prosecutor stated.

"Within hours, this fugitive offender was outside the U.S. Embassy, shouting… asking for Narine's bail to be removed, calling for him to be deported."

The prosecution described the alleged conduct as rapid and deliberate non-compliance.

"In total disregard for those conditions, he found himself outside the U.S. Embassy, in front of the Canadian building, saying that the witness must be deported, saying that he's a murderer, that he's an assassin… And in that same activity, the fugitive offender declared that he will no longer be able to hold the people back… Which is a threat to the public order, in my opinion," Hanoman argued.



The prosecution contended that the conduct demonstrated "a pattern of someone who has no regard for the courts," adding that Mohamed "feels that [he is] above the law" and acts with impunity.

Additionally, the prosecution disclosed that further charges under Section 24 of the Cybercrime Act are pending in relation to the alleged facilitation, clipping, manipulation and tampering of video evidence. It also referred to an ongoing murder investigation in which Mohamed is considered a suspect, claiming there is "strong compelling evidence".

"His say-so is not tantamount to a sworn affidavit"

Defence Counsel Siand Dhurjon, alongside Senior Counsel Roysdale Forde, strongly resisted the application, accusing the prosecution of attempting to mislead the court and advance grounds for revocation without evidentiary support.

Addressing the prosecution's claims concerning the murder allegations, defence counsel argued that the assertions

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had not been substantiated.

"Contrary to Mr. Hanoman's formal application, his say-so is not tantamount to a sworn affidavit… Across five years, Azruddin Mohamed has never been contacted by the police, visited by the police, telephoned by the police, questioned by the police… Mr. Hanoman should not be speaking in his proceedings. He is tainted with malicious motives in his proceedings," counsel submitted.

Forde pointed to the statutory requirements under Section 7 of the Bail Act, emphasising that the court must consider established factual circumstances rather than unproven assertions or pending matters that had not formally been brought before it.

"Section 7 says that we want to show that the chaos in which we live, the circumstances in which we live may be refused… None of the charges brought or mentioned by this panel have been brought before you to be granted leave in relation to that," Forde argued.

Dhurjon also invoked fundamental principles of proportionality and liberty, citing common law precedents to caution against excessive judicial measures.

"The principles of opportunism become all the more strong, all the more powerful in issues where the liberty of a person is at stake… He is already in jail, in solitary confinement, in what is admittedly a maximum security [area]…" he argued.

A central point of contention during the proceedings was whether the current charges against Mohamed fall within the statutory definition of a "serious offence" under Section 2 of the Bail Act, which requires a penalty exceeding five years' imprisonment.

During questioning about the specific penalties attached to charges such as attempting to pervert the course of justice, which carries a maximum penalty of three years, and unlawful possession, the court examined whether the accumulation of charges met the statutory threshold.

The prosecution maintained that the "escalation and cumulative effect of all the charges" must be considered collectively rather than in isolation, arguing that there were substantial grounds to believe the defendant had committed further offences while on bail.

After reviewing the statutory framework and hearing submissions from both sides, Magistrate Latchman maintained the existing bail arrangements and refused the prosecution's application to have Mohamed remanded. (Kaieteur News)

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Zingha Horne appointed SVG's Deputy G.G

Zingha Horne has been officially sworn in as the new Deputy Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The swearing-in ceremony took place on Friday, October 30, 2026, at the official residence of the Governor General, held under the auspices of His Lordship, Justice Burnett.

Delivering remarks following her swearing-in, Horne expressed deep appreciation to Prime Minister the Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday for the confidence placed in her through her selection for the high-ranking constitutional office.

She also extended special heartfelt gratitude to her parents, family members, close friends, and professional colleagues, recognizing their steadfast support and contributions throughout her personal and professional journey.

Calling the appointment a defining milestone in her life, Horne grounded her dedication to the nation in faith and public duty:

"This is a momentous occasion for me, and I want to first and foremost give thanks to my God because He is awesome. He has blessed me in so many ways, and I can only give thanks to Him for where He has brought me," Horne stated. "I will do my best in this position. I feel honored to be able to serve my country in this way, and I trust that with God at my side and my family, friends, and staff supporting me, I will excel."

Horne also extended special thanks to Justice Burnett for presiding over the ceremony and commended the Secretariat staff of Government House for arranging the proceedings, adding that she looks forward to their ongoing collaboration and support as she begins her tenure. (St Vincent Times)





England Lions overcome Windies A team to claim T20 series

England Lions emerged victorious for the second straight match to claim their T20 series against the West Indies A team with a match to spare in St. Kitts and Nevis on Tuesday.

The West Indies A team put up a better fight this time around but still went down by 17 runs at Conaree Sports Club to give the Lions an unassailable 2-0 advantage in their three-match series.

After sending England into bat, the Windies would have been disappointed England got up to 151 in 18.5 overs after reducing them to 120 for eight at one stage.

Despite knocks of 49 from Shadrack Descarte and 43 from captain Alick Athanaze, the West Indies could only muster 134 for seven in their 20 overs.

For the second time in the series, pacer Jakeem Pollard gave the Windies a dream start by dismissing Ben McKinney for a duck in the first over.

After being hit for three fours in his second over, Pollard rebounded to dismiss England's skipper Thomas Rew for 11 to leave the score on 23 for two at the end of the third over.

Rehan Ahmed and James Rew put the home side on the backfoot during a 49-run third-wicket partnership to guide the England Lions to 72 for three in the eighth over.

But once Descarte claimed Ahmed's wicket for 31 off 21 balls, England suffered a collapse, losing six wickets for 48 runs.

Leg-spinner Zishan Motara and left-arm wrist spinner Vitel Lawes were the main reasons behind the collapse, accounting for four wickets between them.



Captain Thomas Rew leads England Lions to T20 series win against West Indies A team in the Caribbean.

However, from 120 for eight in the 16th over, England was boosted by an unbeaten 22 from Liam Patterson-White and Eddie Jack, who blasted 21 off 13 balls batting at number nine.

Pollard ended with four for 20, Lawes took two for 25, and Motara claimed two for 27.

The West Indies A openers Kamil Pooran and Zachary Carter were stifled early on by England's opening bowling pair of Naavya Sharma and Eddie Jack.

They managed to get up to 26 in the fourth over before pacer Scott Currie had Pooran caught at long on for 18 off 15 balls.

Antiguan Jewel Andrew drove Eddie Jack to the boundary, but two balls later, he was caught at backward point for four as West Indies slipped to 31 for two after five overs.

Carter's nightmare stay at the crease came to an end when he was dismissed by leg-spinner Calvin Harrison for a pedestrian six off 19 balls. Harrison also had Antiguan Karima Gore caught and bowled for eight to reduce the Windies A team to 59 for four in the 12th over.

Athanaze and Descarte tried their best to repair the damage during a 57-run partnership for the fifth wicket, but the required run rate continued to spiral out of control.

When Currie bowled Athanaze for 43 off 30 balls to leave the score 116 for five in the 18th over, the West Indies A still required 36 runs from 13 balls.

Currie then essentially finalised the result by bowling Quentin Sampson for a duck with the next delivery to finish with three for 17 from his four overs, while Harrison took two for 27.

Descarte was run out off the last ball of the match for 49 off 33 balls, inclusive of three sixes and two fours. The third and final T20 was slated to take place on Wednesday at the same venue.

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Sports News

CPL health drive screens 5,555 fans across eight venues



Cricket Fans at a Caribbean Premier League match between the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons and Guyana Amazon Warriors at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday, August 23, 2026.

The 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) delivered free health testing at all eight host venues, with 5,555 people screened for non-communicable diseases during the tournament's landmark public health programme.

Working with regional health authorities and non-governmental organisations, health professionals offered fans complimentary blood pressure checks, blood glucose testing, Body Mass Index assessments, urinalysis and PSA testing in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The CPL described the initiative as the Caribbean's largest programme of its kind.

Across the territories where counts were reported, 984 referrals and follow-up vouchers were issued, connecting those screened with local health services for further support.

Pete Russell, CEO of the Republic Bank CPL, said, "Screening more than 5,500 people in a single season shows what is possible when cricket and public health work together.

"Every referral issued is an opportunity for someone to take a positive step for their health, and we are grateful to the health professionals and partners who made this possible.

"We are proud to have played our part and look forward to making this a permanent fixture of the CPL calendar."

Dr. Rene Best, CPL's Chief Medical Officer, said, "Achieving screening on this scale is a remarkable accomplishment and reflects CPL's strong commitment to the health and well-being of Caribbean people. It represents a significant step forward in the fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which continue to place an enormous burden on our region.

"Early detection, education and timely intervention can change lives, prevent complications and, ultimately, save lives."

Following this year's programme's success, the CPL intends to make health screening an integral part of the tournament's annual calendar, reinforcing the league's commitment to the communities that host it and its role as the Caribbean's premier sporting event.

Reifer impressed with West Indies batters' approach to spin

SYLHET, Bangladesh – West Indies batting coach Floyd Reifer has lauded the team's batters for the manner in which they negotiated Bangladesh's spinners in the opening Test.

The regional side nullified the home side's spinning trio of Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam and Nayeem Hasan on their way to registering a convincing eight-wicket win at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka.

In their second innings, Brandon King scored an unbeaten 81, while John Campbell made 49 in an opening partnership of 112 that propelled the visitors to 170 for two and victory inside four days last Saturday.

The batting performance was particularly impressive considering the West Indies' well documented vulnerability to spin.

Speaking ahead of the second Test on Thursday, Reifer said he was impressed by the positive intent shown by the batters against spin.

"I thought the batting performance was brilliant. Coming to Bangladesh and playing in Dhaka from history the pitches turn a lot. It had some things in the seamer from the beginning, but mainly it is a spinning deck.



Floyd Reifer, West Indie batting coach

"I am very pleased in terms of how the guys batted the spin. We were confident in our defence, rotated the strike very well, and as you saw in the second innings, we took our boundary options chasing down that 170 runs," Reifer said.

With the Windies holding a 1-0 lead in the two-match Test series, Reifer said he was looking forward to another consistent performance from their batters in the final match.

"It's important that we be consistent with peak performances. Yes, we played well in Dhaka, but it's important that we come here and play well again.

"This next game starts from zero, so we still have to go through all the processes that we went through in terms of how we start an innings, how we build an innings, understanding when we're in control and build on it. So, for me it's consistency in how they approach batting again," Reifer said.



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Zverev falls in first match as world number one



Alexander Zverev

PARIS (Reuters) - Lorenzo Musetti spoiled Alexander Zverev's first match as world number one by toppling him in the second round of the Paris Masters on Wednesday, while Rinky Hijikata ended Novak Djokovic's hopes of qualifying for the ATP Finals.

The 29-year-old Zverev, who climbed to number one on Monday, suffered a surprise 7-6(5), 6-2 defeat just days after losing to Australia's Alex de Minaur in the Vienna Open semi-finals.

Musetti, a former world number five, seized the initiative by winning six of the final seven points of the opening-set tiebreak before taking command of the second set.

The 24-year-old Italian broke Zverev for a 2-1 lead and struck again to move 5-2 ahead on his way to victory.

World number 24 Musetti, a former French Open and Wimbledon semi-finalist, fired 29 winners and eight aces during the contest to improve his head-to-head record against Zverev to 4-2.

The win continued a resurgence for Musetti, who has been hampered by injuries throughout the 2026 season. His toughest setback came at the Australian Open, where he retired while leading Djokovic by two sets in their quarter-final. Musetti ended a four-year wait for a title in Lyon last month.

Zverev has enjoyed a breakthrough season, capturing his maiden Grand Slam title at the French Open before adding a second major crown at the US Open.

Asked whether his first match as world number one had brought additional pressure, the German top seed told reporters, "I don't know if it's stress.

Zverev did not specify who or what had prompted his frustration since he climbed to the top of the rankings.

His new status also renewed scrutiny of domestic abuse allegations made against him by two former partners.

A German court closed a case involving his former partner Brenda Patea after a 2024 settlement without a finding of guilt, and the ATP ended a separate investigation into allegations by Olga Sharypova in 2023, citing insufficient evidence. Zverev has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Zverev has already secured his place at this month's ATP Finals in Turin, but Djokovic's hopes of joining him were ended by world number 83 Hijikata. The 25-year-old Australian beat the 24-times Grand Slam champion 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

The 39-year-old Serb, who missed the last two editions of the season-ending tournament, arrived in Paris needing a deep run after early exits in Shanghai and Basel.

Elsewhere, unseeded Peruvian Ignacio Buse claimed the biggest win of his career by upsetting Russian fourth seed Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-4.

Medvedev, who has already qualified for Turin, received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after striking the court in frustration at 4-4 in the second set.

Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry also produced an upset, defeating eighth seed De Minaur 7-6(2), 6-3

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West Indies eye rare series win in Bangladesh



West Indies skipper Roston Chase, second right, celebrates with teammates after taking a wicket during the first Test in Dhaka.

The West Indies will look to wrap up a series win against Bangladesh in Sylhet with victory in the second test, starting on Thursday, to cap off an unbeaten and encouraging calendar year. This is the third Test series the Windies are playing this year.

The men from the Caribbean drew one (against Pakistan) and won one (against Sri Lanka), both at home. Going into the Sylhet Test 1-0 up against Bangladesh, the West Indies would be keen to build on recent gains and making it a rare series win on the road.

Pride was evident in head coach Daren Sammy's voice when he spoke about West Indies outbowling Bangladesh in their conditions in the first Test in Dhaka.

Left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican and captain Roston Chase returned five-wicket hauls, while newcomer Joshua Bishop was disciplined and showed good control even though he wasn't as successful as his seniors.

The West Indies also had good performers with the bat. John Campbell and Tagenarine Chanderpaul made contrasting fifties in the first innings, though West Indies were bowled out for 245, conceding a 27-run lead.

And Brandon King's unbeaten 81 took them home in a short and sharp chase in the fourth innings. West Indies will want more top- and middle-order contributions and strong partnerships in Sylhet, where fast bowling is likely to have more of a say than was the case in Dhaka.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, would be desperate for more from their batters after they spurned a good start in Dhaka.

Shadman Islam struck his third Test century, but only Nayeem Hasan had a decent run among the others, scoring a half-century from No. 8 in the second innings, where they scored 142 to fritter away the advantage.

Bangladesh will want captain Najmul Hossain Shanto to lead the recovery - he has two centuries in Sylhet but scored only 19 and 10 in the first Test. In a boost for Bangladesh, Mushfiqur Rahim will return after a finger injury ruled him out of the first Test.

Spin was also a concern for them in the first Test, and Shanto minced no words when placing the blame on them - Taijul Islam, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Nayeem - for the reversal in Dhaka. Taijul, their premier spinner, has taken just five wickets in his last four Tests.

Shadman Islam has to provide a strong follow-up to his century. The left-hand opener looked confident in the first innings in Dhaka, but couldn't quite do the same in the second innings.

Shadman is an accumulator, waiting for the bowlers' mistakes. He has done well against West Indies in the past, handling their fast bowlers better than their spinners. Shadman can expect a tough test in Sylhet, and has to show that he can deal with it.

Jomel Warrican played a huge role in West Indies' win in Dhaka, finishing with a match haul of 9 for 114. Warrican varied his pace masterfully in Dhaka, and West Indies will expect a similar mode of attack in Sylhet, where the bounce may favour his left-arm spin.

Coach Phil Simmons has dropped a strong hint that Taijul's might not be in the XI for Sylhet. Mushfiqur will return and take Mominul Haque's place in the starting XI after Mominul was ruled out of the first Test following a concussion. There could be a toss-up between Taskin Ahmed and Ebadot Hossain for the third seamer's spot.

Kemar Roach could return to the playing XI for West Indies if they believe that the Sylhet surface will be conducive to fast bowling.

Sylhet offers better pace and bounce than Dhaka, which could mean a better time for batters as well as fast bowlers. The weather forecast is mostly dry at this time of the year in Sylhet.

Bangladesh haven't won a match since their Test win against Australia in Darwin in August. Phil Simmons was the West Indies head coach when they last won a Test series 2-0 - at home in 2022; he is now the Bangladesh head coach.

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