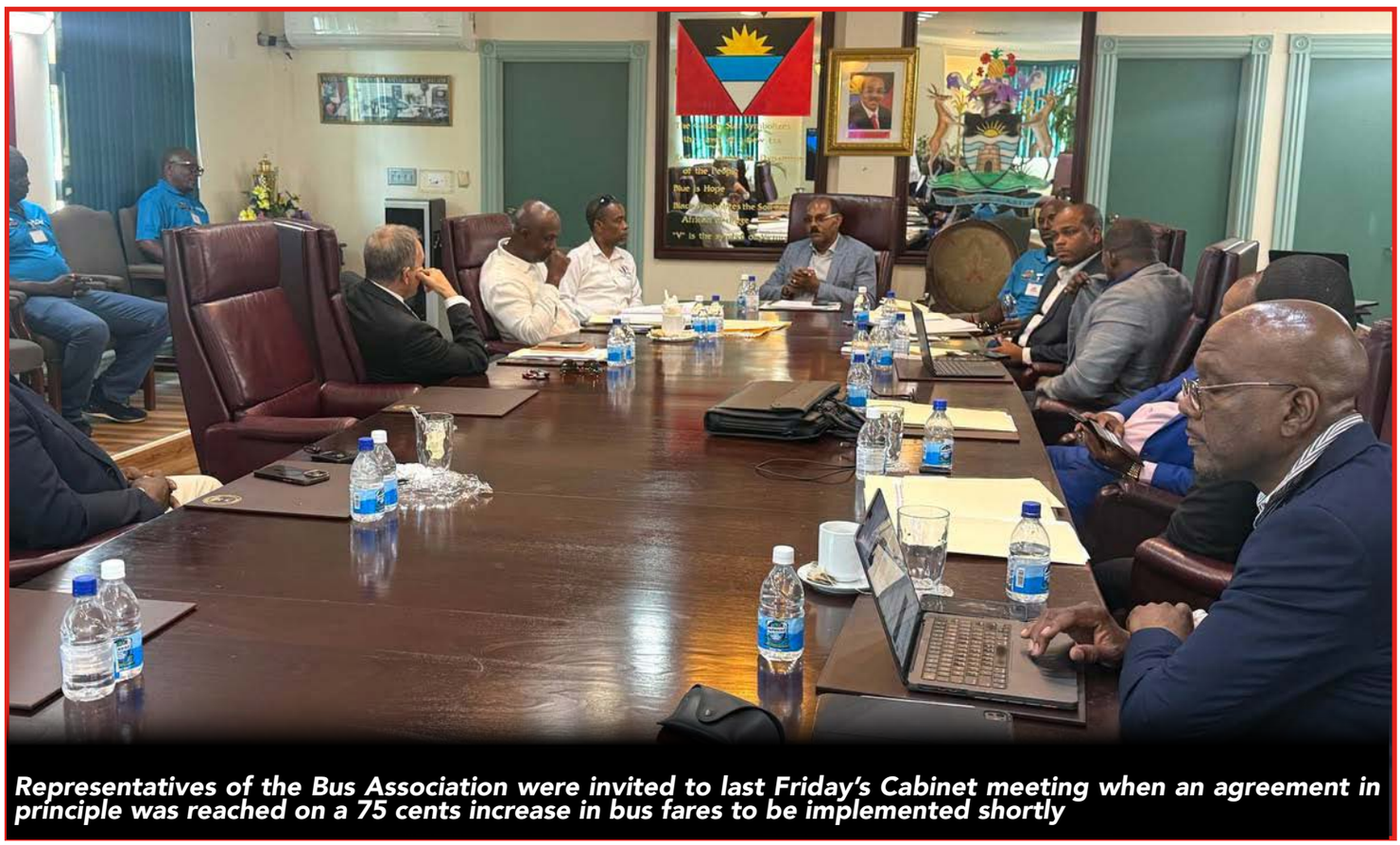
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Cabinet Agrees in Principle to a 75 cents Increase in Bus Fares

Story on page 2



Representatives of the Bus Association were invited to last Friday's Cabinet meeting when an agreement in principle was reached on a 75 cents increase in bus fares to be implemented shortly

Cabinet Agrees in Principle to a 75 cents Increase in Bus Fares

The government and the Antigua and Barbuda Bus Association have reached tentative agreement on an increase in bus fares of 75 cents across the board.

Following discussions at the level of the Cabinet last Friday, Cabinet advised the Association that the Government agrees in principle to the proposed increase. However, Cabinet has requested additional time to assess the potential impact of the adjustment on consumers, particularly those who depend on public transportation for their daily travel.

The Government anticipates that the 75-cent increase will be implemented early in January 2027, following further assessment and consultations with the relevant stakeholders.

In the interim, Cabinet has approved a number of measures intended to provide immediate assistance to bus operators and help ease the financial pressures associated with operating public transportation services.

Cabinet agreed to provide bus operators with a fuel subsidy of $6 per gallon, for up to 10 gallons. This measure is intended to offer direct relief to operators while discussions continue on the proposed fare adjustment.

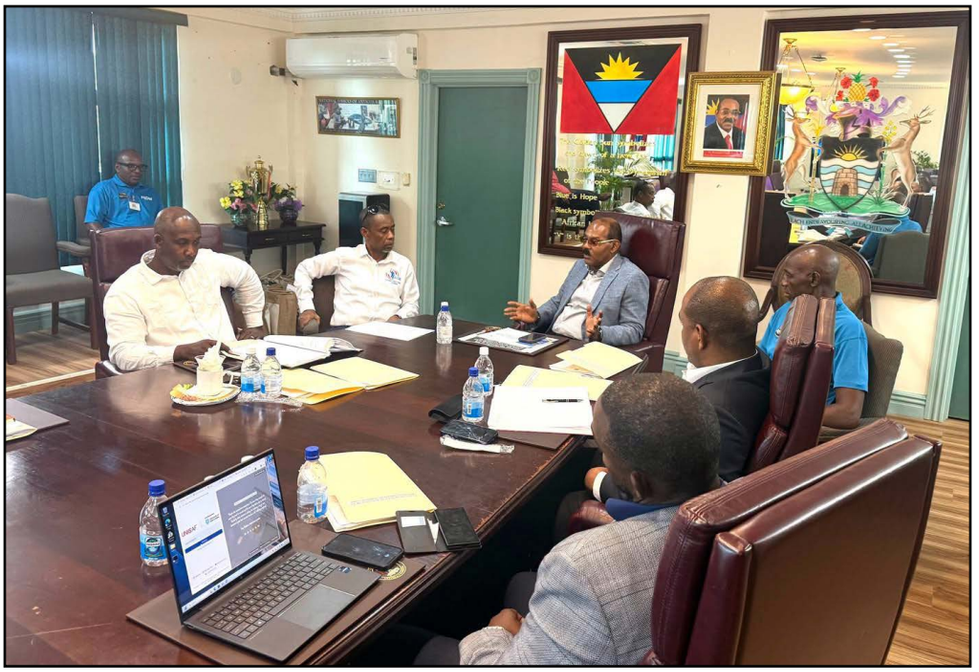
Cabinet also agreed that one of the two new service stations to be commissioned by the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) will be allocated to the Bus Association for its management. The arrangement is expected to provide the Association with an additional opportunity to participate in the fuel distribution sector and support the sustainability of its members' operations.

Ministry of Finance officials have been instructed to meet with the Bus Association and other relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry responsible for Transportation, to further examine the proposed fare adjustment and its implications for commuters and operators.



The latest discussions build on Cabinet's earlier decision to establish a committee to review proposals submitted by both the Bus Association and the Ministry responsible for Transport concerning the public transportation





fare structure.

That review was established in recognition of the increasing costs faced by bus operators, including expenditure on fuel, vehicle maintenance, spare parts, insurance, labour and vehicle replacement. It also seeks to balance the financial viability of public transportation services with the need to protect passengers from additional cost-of-living pressures.

The committee was asked to examine, among other matters, proposed phased adjustments to standard bus fares, possible fares for designated public holidays and existing subsidized transportation arrangements for primary school children wearing their official school uniforms. It is required to submit its findings and recommendations to Cabinet within 90 days.

Cabinet's latest decisions demonstrate the Government's willingness to work with the Bus Association to address the legitimate concerns of operators while ensuring that any adjustment to public transportation fares takes account of the financial circumstances of commuters.

The Government remains committed to maintaining a reliable and sustainable public transportation system that serves the needs of bus operators, passengers and the wider community.



A Proposal for Major Solar Energy and Battery Storage Project at Potworks Is Under Consideration by the Government



The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has received a presentation from China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd. (CAMCE), outlining a proposed major renewable energy development at Potworks aimed at strengthening the country's electricity generation capacity and accelerating the national transition from fossil fuels to cleaner and more sustainable sources of energy.

The proposed Potworks Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Storage Project involves the installation of a 30-megawatt peak (MWp) solar photovoltaic facility, supported by a 15-megawatt (MW), 30-megawatt-hour (MWh) battery energy storage system.

The presentation outlined a large-scale solar installation comprising approximately 48,384 solar panels, each with a capacity of 620 watts, together with 54 inverters rated at 460 kilowatts each.

According to the preliminary proposal, the solar facility could generate approximately 49.5 to 54 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity annually, providing an important additional source of renewable energy for Antigua and Barbuda.

The battery storage component is designed to store electricity generated during daylight hours for use during periods of increased demand, particularly in the evening. The proposed system would have a nominal storage duration of two hours at its rated output, helping to improve electricity supply management and support greater integration of renewable energy into the national electricity grid.

Cabinet was informed that the proposed development could contribute to reducing the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels, lowering exposure to fluctuations in international fuel prices and strengthening long-term energy security.

Following its review of the presentation, Cabinet advised the representatives of China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd. to engage directly with the management of the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) to undertake further technical discussions and develop a comprehensive proposal for Cabinet's consideration.

The comprehensive submission is expected to address the technical specifications, financial arrangements, project implementation schedule, grid integration requirements, operational considerations and anticipated economic benefits of the proposed investment.

Cabinet emphasized that the involvement of APUA is essential to ensuring that any proposed renewable energy development is compatible with the country's existing electricity infrastructure and supports the Authority's long-term electricity generation and distribution strategy.

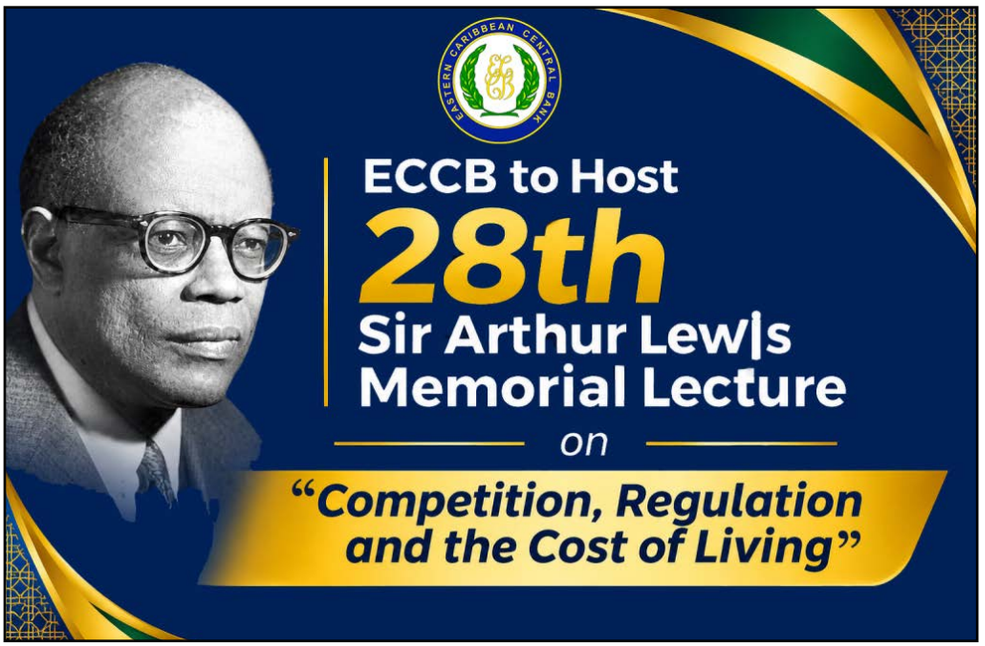
The Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to pursue opportunities to diversify the national energy mix through investments in solar power, battery storage and other renewable energy technologies.

The proposed Potworks development forms part of these wider efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuel generation, strengthen energy resilience and support the country's environmental and sustainable development objectives.

Cabinet noted that increasing renewable electricity generation, supported by modern energy storage technologies, could also contribute to greater stability in electricity production and help manage the long-term costs associated with power generation.

Cabinet has not granted final approval for the proposed project. Further consideration will follow the submission of a comprehensive technical and financial proposal developed in consultation with APUA.

ECCB to Host 28th Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture on Competition, Regulation and Cost of Living



The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) will host the 28th Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture on Wednesday, 11 November, at the Sir Cecil Jacobs Auditorium, ECCB Headquarters, Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis.

The lecture, themed "Competition, Regulation and the Cost-of-Living Problem", comes at a time when the affordability of goods and services remains an important concern for households and businesses globally and across the Caribbean.

The featured lecturer is Professor Emeritus of Economics at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Andrew S Downes, PhD. A distinguished economist and public policy adviser, Professor Downes has authored more than 100 scholarly articles and held several senior positions at UWI, including Pro Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Development. His expertise spans development, labour, and organisational economics. As a former Chairman of the CARICOM Competition Commission, he also brings extensive experience in competition policy and regulation.

Professor Downes' academic background also reflects the enduring influence of Sir Arthur Lewis, the Saint Lucian economist and 1979 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences. Sir Arthur was the first Vice-Chancellor of UWI, where Professor Downes studied development planning under his guidance at the Cave Hill Campus. Both economists also have ties to the University of Manchester.

Sir Arthur became Britain's first Black professor while at the university, where Professor Downes earned his PhD in Economics. Professor Downes' doctoral research focused on Sir Arthur's work on industrial development in the Caribbean. He has also written biographies about Sir Arthur's life and work.

The lecture will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Professor Downes and Ms Carissa Rodulfo, an Attorney-at-Law and final-year PhD candidate in Competition Law at the University of Cambridge. Her research examines how competition laws can be adapted to the circumstances of small island developing states, particularly in the Caribbean.



$17 Million for the Upgrade of Community Sporting Complexes

Cabinet has agreed to an allocation of EC$17 million for the upgrading and improvement of community sporting complexes throughout Antigua and Barbuda, in recognition of the importance of accessible sporting facilities to national sports development and community advancement.

The allocation will be incorporated into the Government's 2027 Budget Estimates, providing for a coordinated programme of improvements to sporting facilities across the country.

Cabinet recognised that community sporting complexes are essential to the development of athletes, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the provision of safe spaces for young people to participate in organised sports and recreational activities. The planned upgrades are intended to strengthen the infrastructure available to sporting organisations, schools and communities, while creating improved opportunities for training, competition and talent development.

In considering the importance of investment in sporting infrastructure, Cabinet also commended Sir David Harrison for his contribution towards the construction of the Harrison Potters Sports Centre. The facility is expected to become one of the most transformative investments in sports development in Antigua and Barbuda, providing an important resource for athletes and the wider community.

Cabinet's decision to allocate EC$17 million reflects the Government's recognition that investment in sports must extend beyond major national facilities to include the sporting complexes located within communities. The initiative forms part of the Government's wider commitment to expanding opportunities for young people, strengthening community life and advancing the development of sports throughout Antigua and Barbuda.





ACP Desmond Dinard Gets Warm Send-off Following 45 Years of Police Service

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda honours Assistant Commissioner of Police, Desmond Dinard, KPM, who proceeded on retirement leave effective Friday, November 6, 2026, following nearly 45 years of dedicated service to the organization and the nation.

During a special ceremony held in his honour at Police Headquarters on Monday, November 9, Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers, paid tribute to ACP Dinard's distinguished career, leadership, and contribution to policing in Antigua and Barbuda and across the region.

"Words of thanks alone cannot adequately express our appreciation to someone who has devoted almost his entire working life to serving this organization and our country. Throughout your tenure, you have helped to mould and shape generations of police officers, both here at home and across the region. Your contribution will continue to be reflected in the lives and service of those you have guided," Commissioner Jeffers said.

The Commissioner also expressed gratitude for ACP Dinard's support and acknowledged the sacrifices made by his family throughout his career.

"Thank you for your steadfast support and your many years of dedicated service. To your family, we extend our sincere appreciation for sharing you with the Police Force and for the understanding and sacrifices that helped make your service possible," he added.



Several senior officers offered congratulations and best wishes, sharing fond memories of their experiences working alongside ACP Dinard and reflecting on his influence on their professional development. In his response, ACP Dinard expressed gratitude for the tributes and encouraged officers to uphold respect, integrity, and honesty in the execution of their duties.

"Treat one another and the members of the public with respect. When you demonstrate respect through your words and actions, you help to earn that respect in return. Maintain your integrity, remain honest, and never allow anyone to lead you down a path that compromises your values or your duty," he urged.

Reflecting on his years of service, ACP Dinard spoke warmly of the opportunities and fulfilment his career had provided.

"I have enjoyed every moment of my policing career. Almost everything I have acquired in life has come during my years of service as a member of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, and for that I am deeply grateful. Continue to support one another, work together, and build this organization so that it can continue to serve the nation with pride," he said.

ACP Dinard enlisted in the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda on January 15, 1982. Over the course of his career, he served in several units and departments, including the Criminal Investigations Department, the Special Services Unit, and the Major Events Department. He also represented the Force on numerous regional assignments, leading major operations and rescue missions. These included deployment to Grenada as part of the Regional Security System's response following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

In recognition of his distinguished service, ACP Dinard was awarded the King's Police Medal as part of the King's New Year Honours for 2026. The medal was presented at Government House in July 2026, acknowledging his longstanding commitment to policing, national security, and regional cooperation. The Commissioner of Police, the Police Administration, and all members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to ACP Desmond Dinard, KPM, for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.




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1 NATION CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
10TH JAN 2027
6:00PM
NIGHT TWO
ISLAND TRIBE COLLECTIVE
GEN $100
GLORY LOUNGE $250
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
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University of Oxford confers Doctorate in Evidence-Based Health Care on Guyanese/Antiguan Tansy Wade







Dr Tansy Pile Wade, a Guyana-born Antigua and Barbuda national, has successful completed her Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Evidence-Based Health Care at the University of Oxford.

Dr. Wade's doctoral research, "Developing an evidence-based intervention for surgical antibiotic prophylaxis use in women undergoing Caesarean delivery in Antigua and Barbuda" addresses issues of significant importance to patient safety and healthcare quality in Antigua and Barbuda.

Her research journey has contributed to a growing body of evidence on antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention. Her published work includes research examining healthcare-associated infections and antibiotic prescribing across CARICOM states, antimicrobial stewardship interventions in hospital settings, surgical antibiotic prophylaxis for Caesarean delivery, and, most recently, antibiotic prescribing patterns in a tertiary hospital in Antigua and Barbuda.

In 2026, Dr. Wade presented aspects of her doctoral research at EBMLive at the University of Oxford, sharing work on translating evidence into practice through improved antibiotic prophylaxis for Caesarean sections in Antigua and Barbuda.

This achievement represents not only an important personal and academic milestone, but also a valuable contribution to strengthening the use of evidence in healthcare practice in Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean.

Congratulations, Dr. Wade, on this outstanding achievement and contribution to evidence-based healthcare in the Caribbean.



12 scuba diving honours for Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda has earned 12 honours in Scuba Diving magazine's 2027 Readers' Choice Awards. The destination was recognised in categories including Beginner Diving, Advanced Diving, Wall Diving, Wreck Diving and Underwater Photography, as well as Big Animals and Cavern, Grotto and Cave Diving.

Now in its 34th year, the awards drew nearly 11,000 votes from readers. The recognition puts a spotlight on Antigua and Barbuda as a scuba diving destination where variety of boat dives are available off Antigua and Barbuda and visitors able to explore coral formations on the west coast within the Caribbean Sea or head south where the Caribbean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean for rock overhangs and wreck sites.

"Two dives in Antigua can feel like entirely different experiences," said Charmaine Spencer, Chief Marketing Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. "You can spend a dive watching schools of fish move across the coral at Cades Reef, then explore the rock formations off English Harbour on another outing. This recognition from Scuba Diving readers is an opportunity to introduce more travellers to that range and to our incredible local dive operators who help them experience these dives."



For divers wishing to explore Antigua, in the west, Cades Reef offers a gentler introduction to diving. Its shallower sections are home to coral formations and schools of reef fish, giving newer divers a place to build confidence and underwater photographers time to explore the details of the reef. Local dive operators in Jolly Harbour run boat trips to the area.

Off the south coast near English Harbour, the cliffs below Shirley Heights give way to dramatic underwater rock formations. At Sunken Rock, just outside Indian Creek, a submerged rocky peninsula reaches depths of approximately 130 feet. The site offers experienced divers the chance to encounter eagle rays, turtles and larger fish, including sharks. Wreck dives along the south coast offer another way to explore this part of the island.

PADI dive operators in Jolly Harbour and English Harbour can help visitors choose boat dives suited to their certification, experience and interests. For more information on visiting Antigua and Barbuda, go to visitantiguabarbuda.com.

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Three Separate Fires Kept Firemen Busy Monday Afternoon





The St John's Fire Station has reported that on Monday afternoon at approximately 3:04 it received a call stating that there was a structure on fire east of the John I Martin Racetrack.

An immediate response was made in the No 19 and 22 fire tenders from St John's Fire Station and the No 20 fire tender from All Saints Fire Station. On arrival at the scene the fire crew met an abandoned building of wooden construction completely engulfed in flames. Water was used from the Fire tenders to control and extinguish the flames.

The building measured 40 X 60 feet and was completely destroyed by the fire. Whiles at the scene of the abandoned building fire, the All Saints Fire crew was called at 3:10pm to respond to a church fire in Law Pasture. On arrival at the scene the All Saints Fire crew met the foundation of Love Ministries Church which was of wooden construction, fully engulfed in flames. Water was used from the fire tender to control and extinguish the fire. The church measured 42 X 24 feet and was completely destroyed by the flames.



The Coolidge Fire Crew was called to render assistance to the All Saints fire crew at the Church fire in the No. 21 Fire Tender. Whiles on their way to the Church fire, the Coolidge fire crew received a call at 3:12pm with instructions to divert to an excavator fire on All Saints Road in the vicinity of LICS Limited. On arrival at the scene, the crew met a Yellow JCB-540 excavator with the interior of the cab on fire.

Water was used from the fire tender to control and extinguish the fire. The interior of the cab was extensively damaged by the flames.

The Fire Brigade said it is investigating the origins of these three fires.

The Police Have Renewed Appeal for Assistance in Locating 21-year old Youth

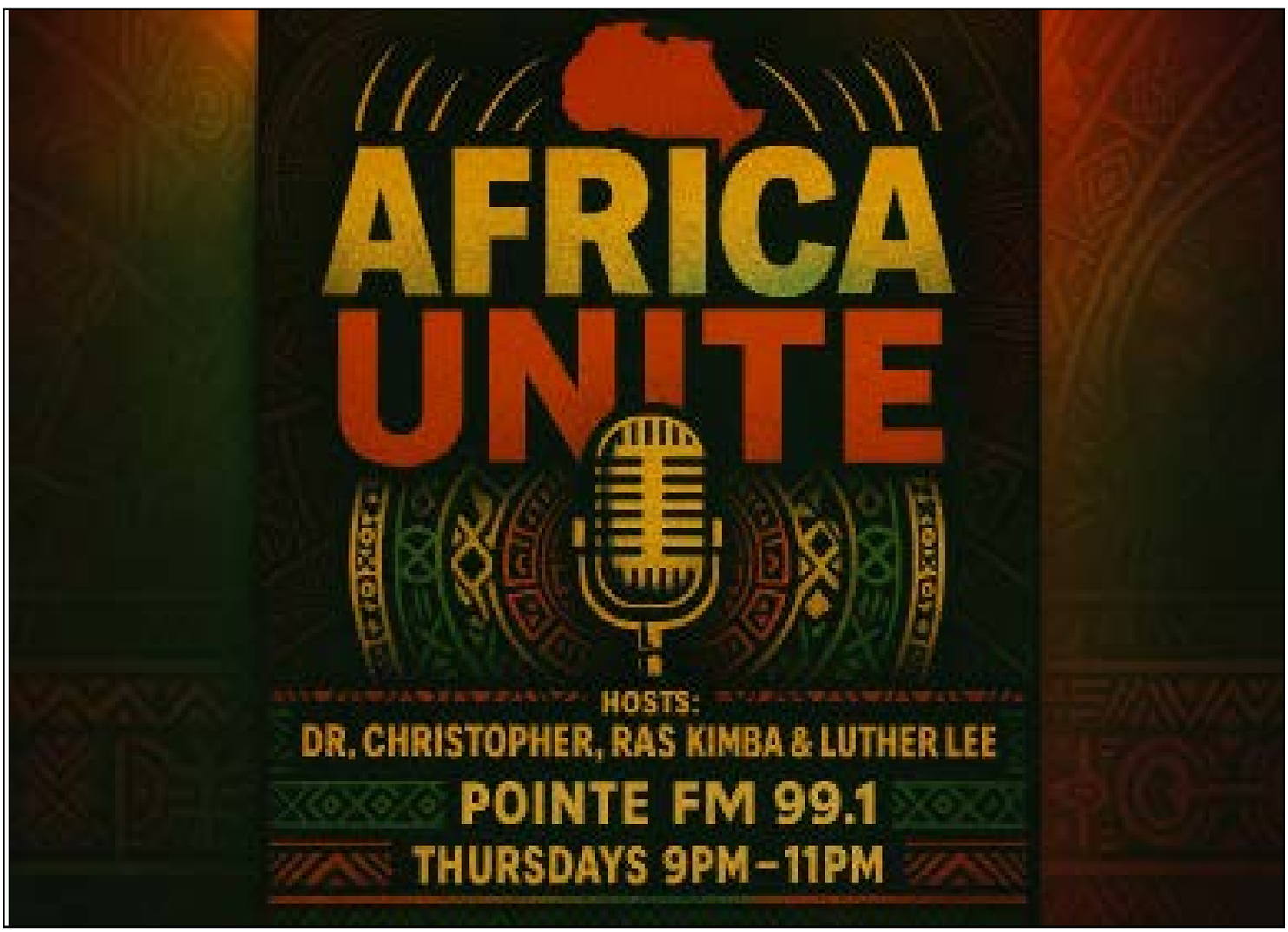


The police are renewing their appeal for the public's assistance in locating 21-year old Yobachi Charles of Armstrong Road, who remains missing despite several searches.

Charles reportedly left his residence approximately 7:45 on Friday October 30, and has not been heard from or seen since. More than a week later, his whereabouts remain unknown and his family remains deeply concerned for his safety.

He is described as approximately 5 feet 7 inches tall, dark in complexion and slim in built, with his hair in cornrows. He was last seen wearing cream-coloured short pants and a white t-shirt and carrying a black cross-body bag.

Anyone who may have seen Charles since his disappearance or has information that could assist in locating him, is urged to contact the Criminal Investigation Department at 462-3913 or the nearest police station.




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Reparatory Justice: A Moral Imperative, An Economic Obligation and a Foundation for Global Justice



By Gassy Dread - The Rasta Dreadman - Reparationist Republican.

The controversy surrounding our call for reparatory justice is not simply a debate about the past, that should remain in the past. Nor is about going to European powers cap in hand to seek charity.

It is a question about justice in the present, responsibility across generations, and the kind of world we wish to bequeath to those who will follow us.

For too long, the transatlantic slave trade and the system of chattel slavery that sustained it, have been treated as historical events whose consequences should simply fade with the passage of time.

But the passage of time does not extinguish injustice, erase its consequences, or absolve those who continue to benefit from its proceeds.

For more than four centuries, millions of African men, women and children were violently uprooted from their homelands, stripped of their humanity, sold as property, subjected to unimaginable cruelty, barbarically killed and forced to labour without compensation.

Families were destroyed, communities devastated, and entire societies exploited to generate extraordinary wealth for European empires.

The United Nations has recognised the transatlantic slave trade, as one of the gravest crimes against humanity.

Its brutality was not incidental to the system; it was fundamental to its operation and entrenched by European powers.

Yet, while the enslaved were denied their freedom, their free labour undisputedly created immense wealth.

That wealth helped finance Britain's industrial revolution, strengthen its financial institutions, build its commercial and trading empires, and establish institutions of learning that continue to enjoy the benefits of accumulated capital today.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean was left with underdeveloped infrastructure, distorted economies, entrenched poverty and structural vulnerabilities that continue to constrain our development.

This is the fundamental contradiction at the heart of the reparations debate; those who inherited the benefits of slavery cannot simply disclaim the liabilities that produced them.

They cannot approbate and reprobate.

We cannot accept a principle under which wealth may be inherited across generations, while responsibility for the injustices that created that wealth conveniently expires with the generation that committed them.

If modern institutions and societies can legitimately inherit the assets accumulated through centuries of exploitation, then surely there must also be a corresponding obligation to confront the consequences of that exploitation.

This is not about assigning personal guilt to contemporary British citizens.

It is about recognising institutional continuity, historical responsibility and the enduring economic consequences of an injustice, that helped shape the modern global economy.

There is also a compelling contemporary reason why reparatory justice matters.

We are witnessing an international environment in which established norms are increasingly challenged, international law is disregarded, and powerful states sometimes resort to aggression and the violation of the sovereignty of others.

Whereas, the war in Ukraine is one stark illustration of the fragility of international peace and security. It is obvious that powerful countries have become more brutal and are not constrained by international law in committing atrocities.

We must therefore ask ourselves, what deterrent exists against the commission of grave atrocities, if those responsible can simply rely on the passage of time to escape accountability?

If the international community establishes the precedent that crimes of extraordinary magnitude carry no enduring consequences, we risk encouraging future generations of political leaders, to believe that the liabilities of their actions will disappear when they leave office.

That cannot be the standard of international justice. Definitely not. This reinforces the relevance and justification of reparations as a deterrent.

Reparatory justice must therefore be understood not merely as an attempt to correct historical wrongs, but also as a means of strengthening the international principle that grave violations of human dignity and human rights must carry consequences, even across generations.

Justice must not have an expiry date, simply because the victims and perpetrators belong to different generations.

At the same time, we must approach this matter with maturity, pragmatism and a genuine commitment to reconciliation.

Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean are not seeking charity, nor are we approaching this question with



hostility towards Britain.

We seek a constructive partnership founded on truth, acknowledgement, justice and meaningful action.

A formal apology would be an important expression of moral responsibility.

We welcome any British leadership prepared to engage honestly with this painful history and to acknowledge the suffering inflicted upon our ancestors.

But an apology, however sincere, cannot by itself repair the economic and developmental consequences of centuries of exploitation.

An apology must be the beginning of a process of reconciliation, not a substitute for restitution.

We recognise the fiscal and political challenges confronting Britain.

We are not insisting that contemporary British taxpayers should face additional taxation, or that Britain should incur new borrowing to address this historical injustice.

There is a practical and constructive pathway.

Britain already maintains an Official Development Assistance budget.

A portion of these existing resources could be systematically redirected towards a dedicated Caribbean development programme, in keeping with its ten-point plan on reparatory justice.

This programme should be executed with clearly defined objectives, predictable financing and measurable outcomes.

Such a programme could support climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, education, healthcare, technology, economic diversification and sustainable development, which are included in the ten-point plan.

It should also facilitate meaningful debt restructuring and relief for vulnerable small-island developing states, whose development prospects are frequently undermined by the disproportionate costs of climate disasters and their limited access to affordable financing.

This would not be charity.

It would be a deliberate investment in correcting structural disadvantages created by historical exploitation.

Antigua and Barbuda welcomes the proposed structural dialogue by UK Prime Minister, Andy Burnham.

We will make our contribution to the proposed structural dialogue and will be prepared to engage in structured negotiations, to develop an appropriate framework, with clear timelines, measurable commitments and mutually agreed mechanisms for implementation.

The Commonwealth, in particular, of which Antigua and Barbuda is the chair-in-office, provides an appropriate forum for this engagement.

The Commonwealth must not only endorse this structured dialogue, but influence a positive outcome, thereby demonstrating that it is more than an association bound together by history and sentiment.

It must be an institution capable of confronting difficult historical truths and translating shared values into practical outcomes.

Ultimately, this debate is about the kind of Commonwealth and broader global civilization we aspire to build.

Science reminds us that humanity shares a common African ancestry and that the divisions used to justify racial subjugation were artificial constructs.

We are one human family, with a common mitochondria DNA, with each human being, irrespective of the colour of their skin; entitled to the same dignity, freedom and protection under the law.

We cannot profess universal human rights, while treating some of humanity's greatest historical violations as matters that should simply be forgotten.

We cannot advocate accountability for contemporary aggression, while refusing to confront the enduring consequences of historic atrocities.

And we cannot credibly champion equality of nations, while ignoring the structural inequalities inherited from colonial exploitation.

Our position is therefore clear: reparatory justice is not about revenge; it is about responsibility.

It is not about reopening wounds; it is about healing them.

It is not about diminishing Britain's achievements; it is about ensuring that the relationship between Britain and the Caribbean is founded on honesty, fairness and mutual respect.

Let us move beyond defensiveness and historical denial.

Let us embrace a process that acknowledges the past, addresses its consequences and builds a more equitable future.

The measure of our civilisation is not simply how we celebrate our achievements, but how courageously we confront our injustices.

History has already recorded what was done to our ancestors.

Let our generation be remembered for its enlightenment of having the courage to do what is right.

Much love and blessings.

(Prime Minister Gaston Browne writing as his Alter Ego, Gassy Dread)

Press Statement from the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC)

CHOGM: A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE GLOBAL STRUGGLE FOR REPARATORY JUSTICE

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) welcomes the significant progress made in advancing the cause of reparatory justice during the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), hosted in Antigua and Barbuda.

The outcome represents an important diplomatic milestone in the longstanding struggle for historical justice, as reparatory justice has gained further recognition and prominence on the formal Commonwealth agenda. In particular, the agreement by the United Kingdom to participate in structured, time-bound, inclusive and good-faith dialogue with affected countries on the transatlantic trafficking and enslavement of Africans and its enduring consequences marks an important development.

The Commission believes that we are considerably closer to meaningful engagement than at any previous time. Nevertheless, it is important to distinguish between diplomatic progress and the achievement of our ultimate objectives. While the commitments emerging from CHOGM are encouraging, neither a formal apology nor tangible reparations have yet been secured.

Dialogue is not an apology, and an apology, while important, is not reparations. A formal apology would represent an important acknowledgement of historical wrongdoing and its devastating consequences. However, such acknowledgement must be accompanied by meaningful, measurable and sustainable action to address the profound social, economic and developmental inequalities inherited from centuries of slavery and colonial exploitation.

The ABRSC recognizes the importance of the collective leadership and



advocacy of CARICOM, the African Union and other international partners in advancing this cause. The revised CARICOM Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the historical and continuing consequences of enslavement through education, healthcare, economic development, debt relief, technology transfer, cultural restoration and climate resilience, among other critical areas.

The Commission wishes to emphasize that reparatory justice is not about revenge, charity or assigning personal guilt to present generations. It is about acknowledging historical injustices, accepting the responsibility to address their consequences and establishing a more equitable foundation for future generations.

We must also reject the suggestion that reparations are an unrealistic or unattainable aspiration. Reparatory justice is a legitimate pursuit grounded in historical evidence, moral responsibility, international advocacy and established precedents.

History reminds us that, following the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833, the British Government provided £20 million in compensation to former slave owners, while the formerly enslaved received no comparable compensation for generations of forced labour, suffering and exploitation. Indeed, the British taxpayer continued to service the debt incurred to finance compensation to enslavers until 2015. This historical reality raises an enduring question of justice and fairness: if compensation could be provided to those who benefited from slavery, why should meaningful reparatory measures for those who suffered its consequences be considered impossible?

Furthermore, reparations must not

be reduced to the misconception of individual financial payouts. They encompass a broader programme of restorative and developmental measures designed to address structural inequalities and create opportunities for sustainable development. Strategic investments in education, healthcare, economic transformation, technology, infrastructure and climate resilience are all legitimate components of the reparatory justice agenda.

The international community has demonstrated, through various negotiated settlements and reparatory programmes, that historical injustices can be addressed through constructive engagement and political will. There is therefore no justification for dismissing the legitimate aspirations of the descendants of enslaved Africans and the nations whose development was fundamentally shaped by slavery and colonial exploitation.

The ABRSC remains cautiously optimistic about the progress achieved at CHOGM. However, the true measure of success will not be the number of declarations, expressions of regret or diplomatic meetings held, but whether these commitments translate into substantive negotiations, accountability and tangible outcomes for affected countries and communities.

The Commission calls on the people of Antigua and Barbuda, our fellow citizens throughout CARICOM and the wider African diaspora to remain actively engaged in the struggle for reparatory justice.

We must not allow cynicism, misinformation or negativity to undermine a movement that has taken generations of determined advocacy to bring to this important international stage. While constructive debate is welcomed, we must recognize that the pursuit of justice requires persistence, unity, informed public engagement and sustained political commitment.

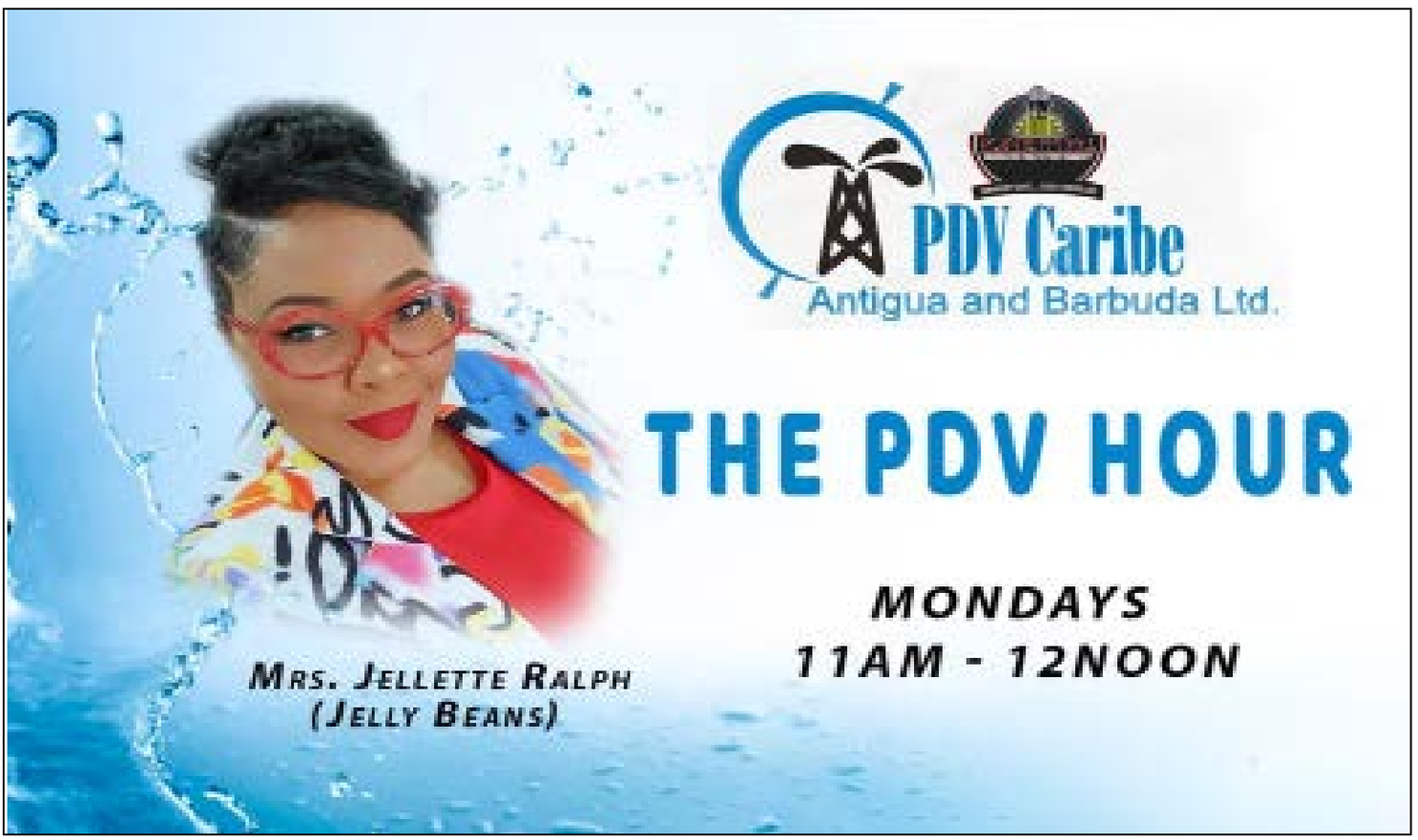
Our struggle is not about revisiting the past for its own sake. It is about confronting historical truth, correcting enduring injustices and creating a fairer and more prosperous future for generations to come.

As a Commission, we remain committed to public education, advocacy and mobilizing national support for the reparatory justice movement. We encourage all citizens to become informed, participate in the conversation and lend their voices to this historic undertaking.

We have moved from asking the world to acknowledge that an injustice occurred to insisting that the world engage seriously with how that injustice can be repaired. That is significant progress. However, our struggle will not be complete until recognition is translated into justice, meaningful reparatory action and a better future for our people.

REPARATORY JUSTICE IS NOT A FAVOUR TO BE GRANTED. IT IS A HISTORICAL INJUSTICE TO BE ADDRESSED AND A LEGACY OF JUSTICE TO BE SECURED.

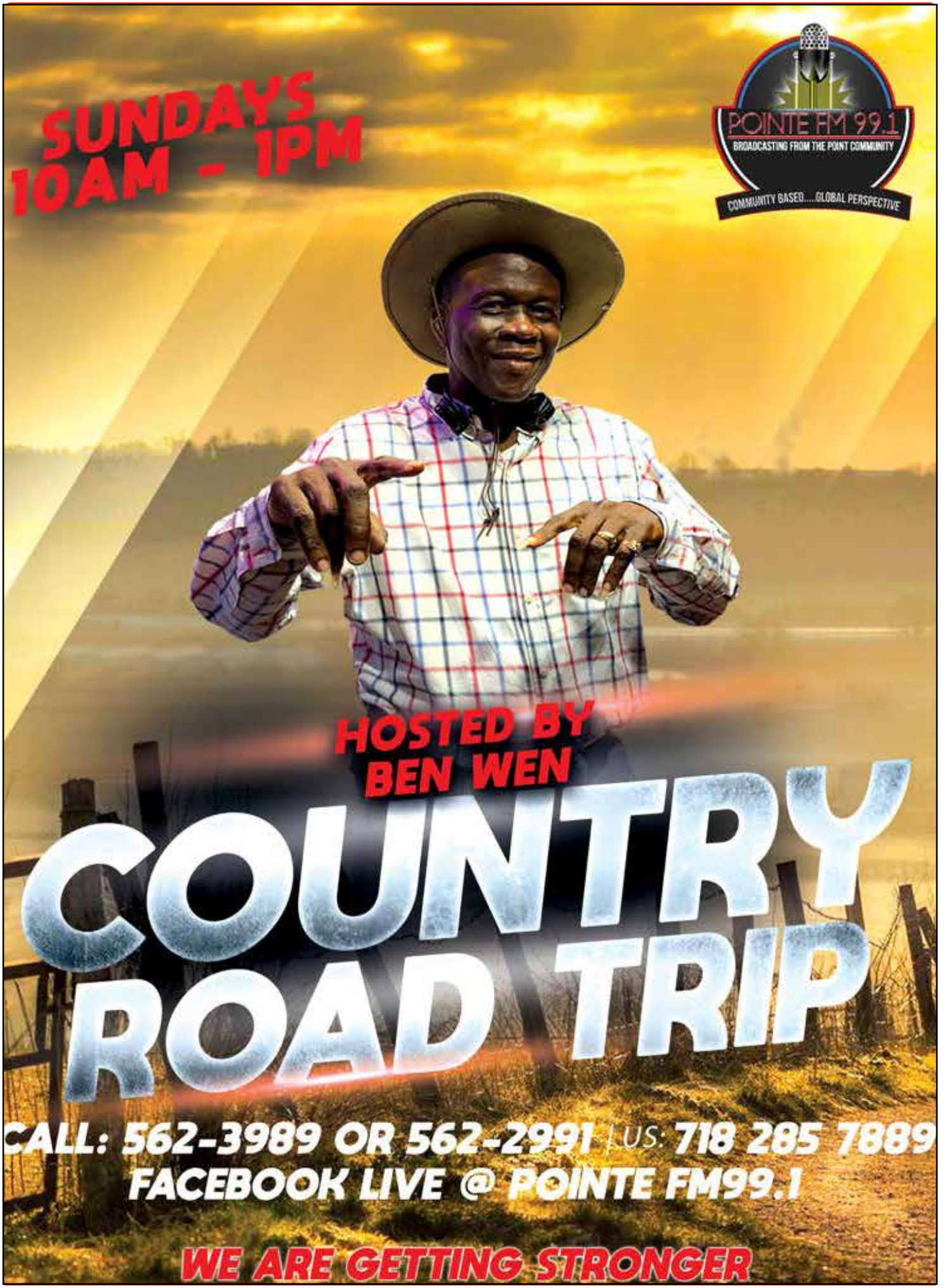
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Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION
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Students warned against gang recruitment as trafficking concerns persist

Jamaican students are being warned that gang recruitment can begin before they understand the consequences of criminal involvement, as education and police officials intensify efforts to keep the youth away from organised crime.

The warning came on Sunday at the launch of Anti-Gang in Schools Week 2026, led by the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

The November 8 to 14 observance is being held under the theme 'Step Outta Gang, Step Inna Greatness'. It will include anti-gang lessons in schools and a restorative practices session today, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

Richard Troupe, national coordinator of the ministry's Schools' Safety and Security Branch, reminded the congregation at the Emmanuel Apostolic Church in Kingston that children could be exposed to gang influence through their communities, relationships, and even members of their own families.

"The influence of gangs is encountered long before they fully understand what gang membership means. It may be visible in the activities of individuals within their communities, the relationships they form, or the behaviour of people they have come to admire, including members of their own families," he said.

In certain circumstances, he added, young people may associate gang involvement with protection, financial security, respect or a sense of belonging. These perceptions can become particularly influential when children are exposed to violence, intimidation or limited opportunities for positive engagement.

Troupe said recruitment may begin with seemingly harmless offers of friendship, assistance or protection before developing into expectations of loyalty and participation in activities that put children's safety and future at risk.

Citing a 2023 study on students' perceptions of school safety, he said 20 per cent of approximately 9,750 students surveyed across 331 schools knew students at their institutions who were gang members.



While the findings did not establish the actual prevalence of gang membership, he said they raised concerns about students' awareness of gang involvement within school communities. More troubling, he added, was that 23.9 per cent of students surveyed did not know an adult at school whom they could approach when they needed help.

"A student who encounters intimidation, threats or pressure to participate in gang-related activities needs somewhere to turn. When that student does not feel connected to a trusted adult, opportunities for early intervention may be lost," Troupe stressed, as members of the congregation nodded in agreement.

The campaign comes amid concerns raised in the United States Department of State's 2026 Trafficking in Persons Report that children apprehended for gang-related activities are not typically screened for signs of human trafficking, potentially leaving some to be punished for offences they were forced to commit.

The report said Jamaican children, particularly boys from disadvantaged backgrounds, were being exploited by gangs in forced criminal activities, including acting as lookouts, gunmen and couriers of weapons and drugs.

It also highlighted that non-specialised police officers did not typically screen children apprehended for gang-related activities for trafficking indicators. Inadequate screening, it warned, could result in children being penalised for unlawful acts committed as a direct consequence of their exploitation.

Last month, the Child Protection and Family Services Agency said children reported to the agency were screened for possible human trafficking, including exploitation into criminal activity. However, it said no suspected child-trafficking case brought to its attention had been specifically identified as involving minors forced into gang activity. The agency also had no figures on children reported for gang involvement over the preceding three years.

The Gleaner has sought responses for several weeks from the Ministry of National Security and the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons on the concerns raised in the US report, but has still not received a response.

Troupe said the education ministry was working with the JCF and other partners to promote school safety, preventive intervention, and positive student behaviour. He also urged parents to pay closer attention to their children's activities and friendships.

Meanwhile, Deputy Superintendent of Police Andrea Murray, of the JCF's Community Safety and Security Branch, described the week as a call for young people to reject the promises of gang affiliation and embrace education, discipline and positive associations.

"Gangs do not offer greatness. They offer an illusion of belonging at the expense of freedom, opportunity, and too often life itself," she said.

She warned that the perceived power, protection and acceptance associated with gangs were often replaced by fear, violence, criminal records, disrupted education and shattered family aspirations.

"True greatness is not about the number of people who fear you but about the number of lives you positively influence," Murray said, adding that schools must remain places of learning and opportunity, not recruitment grounds for criminal networks. (Jamaica Gleaner)

SVGCC students launch 'the Vincy effect' tourism, marketing initiative

Public spaces across St. Vincent and the Grenadines are set to transform this week as forty-four Year 2 Digital Media students from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College (SVGCC) roll out an unprecedented series of live, nationwide tourism campaigns.

Operating under the banner of "The Vincy Effect: A Campaign They Can't Ignore," the students have organized themselves into eight independent marketing agencies to execute real-world promotional strategies that combine national tourism promotion with community advocacy.

The ambitious initiative is the brainchild of Jameliah "Jamie" Crick, a Vincentian educator, technology professional, and creative visionary who serves as a Digital Media Lecturer at SVGCC.

Designed as an intensive six-week practical showcase spanning from October 8 to November 19, the project bridges academic instruction and industry practice. Under the guidance of professional mentors, the student teams built distinct brand identities, secured authentic corporate sponsorships, and prepared comprehensive marketing packages now being presented to the public.

Rooted in the belief that talent is ubiquitous even when access to opportunity is not, the initiative aims to empower young Vincentians to translate creative concepts into tangible societal impact. As Crick noted regarding the driving philosophy behind the project:

"My purpose is to unlock potential, create opportunities, and prove that where you start doesn't limit how far you can go."

The public rollout begins with Guerrilla Week, taking place from November 9 through November 14 across various locations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. During this period, each student agency will execute unannounced pop-up activations, interactive public installations, and designated "Hero Moments" engineered to engage residents and visitors directly. The public is encouraged to participate by documenting these surprise events on social media using the official hashtag #TheVincyEffect.



In addition to guerrilla street marketing, the initiative features dedicated community events designed to support local commerce and culture. On Friday, November 13, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., student agency VINCYFY will host "All Things Vincy" at the Arnos Vale Tarmac. The event will serve as a public showcase celebrating Vincentian entrepreneurs, artisans, food vendors, and performing talent, reinforcing the campaign's emphasis on supporting local enterprise.

The competition structure incorporates both expert panel evaluation and direct civic participation.

A panel of six industry professionals will judge the campaigns alongside one member of the public selected through the "Tip the Scale" initiative, where social media followers of @thevincyeffect enter a randomized draw.

Formal judging concludes on Thursday, November 19, during The Final Pitch, where student agencies will present their analytical results, campaign metrics, and overall reach to industry executives, government officials, and college administrators. Alongside category awards for Best Overall Campaign, Guerrilla Activation, Content, Strategy, and Engagement, the public will cast votes to select the People's Choice winner.

Through this comprehensive blending of creative strategy, public engagement, and youth mentorship, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College continues to establish new benchmarks for vocational digital media training in the Eastern Caribbean. (St Vincent Times)

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Islamic institute says it did not intend to offend

The Darul Iftaa, Islamic advisory department of the Jaamia Madinatul Uloom Institute of Higher Islamic and Secondary Education, has sought to clarify its position on the issuing of religious greetings and participating in the celebrations of other faiths by local Muslims, today noting that it was not its intention to offend or disrespect other religions.

A release posted to its Facebook page over the weekend which stated that it was considered "impermissible" for Muslims to issue seasonal greetings such as "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Divali," or to participate in the religious celebrations of other religions, it says was exclusively intended to be religious guidance for Muslims associated with its educational institutions.

The statement, now restricted on its Facebook page, has been widely shared on social media. prompting a number of strong reactions among citizens.

But the Dural Iftaa says was not addressed to the Hindu community nor was it intended to dictate how followers of other religions practise or celebrate their faith. "We fully recognise and respect their right to do so," it said. Instead, it said, its purpose was to educate its Muslim students, parents, staff and wide community of their religious obligations.

The group noted that Islam does not prohibit Muslims from extending general greetings, kindness and goodwill to persons of other faiths. Muslims, it said, are permitted to exchange universal greetings and expressions of courtesy.

It however stood by its previous assertion, stating, "..A distinction must be made between such general expressions of goodwill and greetings that specifically acknowledge, endorse or celebrate religious occasions associated with beliefs contrary to Islam."



Responding to the Express this morning, the group said that it would be unfortunate for the religious guidance offered to members of the Islamic faith to be misconstrued as an expression of hostility or intolerance towards followers of another.

"Our intention was never to offend or disrespect anyone, but simply to fulfil our responsibility of providing Islamic guidance to those under our care. Trinidad and Tobago is a beautiful multi-religious and multicultural nation in which people of different faiths, cultures and traditions have lived together peacefully for generations. This is something we deeply appreciate and wish to preserve."

"...As Muslims, our religion teaches us to treat all human beings with dignity, kindness, justice and compassion, regardless of their religious affiliation. Islam does not prohibit us from maintaining good relations with people of other faiths. Rather, it commands us to deal justly and kindly with those who live peacefully alongside us," it said.

It also stood by its previous assertion that Islamic beliefs do not permit Muslims to participate in religious celebrations associated with beliefs contrary to its own.

"Respect does not necessitate participation. Tolerance does not require religious compromise. Peaceful coexistence does not mean that all religions must adopt or endorse one another's religious practices. Indeed, genuine religious tolerance must operate in both directions. A Hindu has every right to practise Hinduism in accordance with his or her religious convictions, just as a Muslim has every right to practise Islam in accordance with Islamic teachings," it said.

Citing the celebration of Eid al-Adha which involves the religious sacrifice of animals, it said it understood that many Hindus would not participate. It said it does not interpret this as hatred, intolerance or discrimination against Muslims. It asked that the same understanding and respect be extended to Muslims who abstain from participating in Divali and other religious celebrations.

"We recognise that some may have found aspects of the publication offensive. We regret any hurt or misunderstanding that may have arisen. Nevertheless, we respectfully maintain our religious position that Muslims must refrain from participating in religious celebrations and rituals that conflict with Islamic beliefs"

"As the Hindu community observes Divali, we reaffirm our commitment to peace, religious freedom, mutual respect, tolerance and harmonious coexistence among all the people of Trinidad and Tobago," it stated. (Trinidad Express)

Horror at sea: 37 involved in boat crash, 5 missing

A major maritime disaster unfolded in the waters off Chaguaramas on Sunday evening when two pleasure vessels collided, leaving at least six people injured, five reported missing and triggering an intense sea and aerial search for passengers feared lost in the water.

The collision, which occurred around 6.30 p.m. in the vicinity of Point Cannings, near Staubles Bay, resulted in several passengers being thrown overboard and one of the vessels sinking.

Among those initially reported missing was a 17-year-old girl.

The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG), supported by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) Coastal Support Unit and Air Support Unit, immediately launched a major search-and-rescue operation, deploying vessels, divers and aerial resources in a desperate effort to locate those unaccounted for.

Six people were transported to the St. James Medical Complex, while others were rescued and brought ashore at Staubles Bay.

The full extent of the tragedy remained unclear as rescue teams continued searching the waters between Staubles Bay and Gasparee.

According to preliminary police reports, the collision involved a 28-foot Bowen pleasure craft named BAMBALEO, captained by Richard Yousef, and a 29-foot Chantelle vessel named BELBAGAI, captained by Mattique Fereira.

Police reported that the BAMBALEO was travelling in an easterly direction near Point Cannings when it collided with the BELBAGAI, which was heading west.

The impact caused extensive damage to both vessels and sent several passengers into the sea.

The BELBAGAI subsequently sank.



Police reports indicated that nine people from the BELBAGAI were brought ashore at Staubles Bay, while six people required medical attention.

All 17 people initially reported aboard the BAMBALEO were also brought safely ashore.

Sergeant Denoon of the Western Division confirmed the incident to the Express.

He said the BAMBALEO was carrying approximately 18 people, while the BELBAGAI had approximately 19 people aboard when the vessels collided.

Denoon confirmed that all 18 people aboard the BAMBALEO were reported safe, but said approximately five people from the BELBAGAI remained missing.

Describing the immediate response to the collision, Denoon said the BAMBALEO and other vessels assisted in transporting injured passengers to the nearby Coast Guard base at Staubles Bay.

The incident was then reported to Coast Guard personnel, who immediately mobilised a rescue operation.

"The Coast Guard sprung into action, jumped on their vessels, and began a search along with Coast Guard divers," Denoon told the Express.

He said Coast Guard divers, together with personnel from the police Coastal Support Unit and Air Support Unit,

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began searching the surrounding waters for the missing passengers.

Marine and aerial checks were conducted in the area between Staubles Bay and Gasparee, where those unaccounted for were believed to be in the water.

The operation centred on the waters surrounding Point Cannings, where the collision occurred and the BELBAGAI went down.

A Coast Guard ambulance also transported injured passengers from the BELBAGAI to the St. James Infirmary for medical attention.

Preliminary police reports identified five people who remained unaccounted for following the collision.

They are:

* Ameer Mohammed
* Keeana Seechan
* Lorenzo Oliver
* Anil Ahaye
* Titus

The six people identified in police reports as seeking medical attention at the St. James Infirmary were:

* Marcus Seechan
* Isreal Ahey
* Joanne Beard
* Doriel Ryan
* Khalil Williams
* Andre Henry

Several police and maritime officials visited the scene following the collision.

They included Acting Sergeant Narine and Police Constable Inniss of the Carenage Police Station, Police Constable Dennie of the Western Division Crime Scene Investigations Unit, and Chief Petty Officer Sobion of the Maritime Services.

Personnel from the Coast Guard and the Coastal Support Unit continued their rescue efforts around Point Cannings as authorities attempted to account for everyone who had been aboard the two vessels.

The sinking of the BELBAGAI added urgency to the operation, with divers searching the waters while aerial and marine units checked the surrounding area.

The circumstances surrounding the collision remained under investigation, while the immediate priority of the Coast Guard and police was locating the missing passengers and ensuring that those rescued received medical attention. (Trinidad Express)

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Want to fly to the moon?



Want to fly to the moon and help build a permanent lunar base? NASA is accepting applications for a new astronaut class that will help grow the Artemis programme.

Officials announced the news Saturday during a Kennedy Space Center air show promoting lunar exploration as well as advances in aviation and technology.

NASA's last call for new astronauts was two years ago. More than 8,000 applied, with 10 making the final cut in September 2025.

With only 32 active astronauts, the space agency needs more recruits as it looks to expand humanity's presence beyond low-Earth orbit as quickly as possible. April's lunar flyaround by the Artemis II crew kicked off the lunar campaign.

"We have far more work than we have astronauts," Artemis III commander Randy Bresnik told The Associated Press.

Aspiring astronauts have between now and December 3 to submit their applications. NASA expects to make its final selection by late 2027, with the new candidates beginning their training by early 2028, the same year that NASA intends to return astronauts to the lunar surface after an absence of more than half a century.

By then, "we're going to have people on the moon, so don't delay", Bresnik urged potential candidates.

Bresnik and his three crewmates will blast into orbit next summer to practise docking their capsule with a pair of lunar landers, one built by Elon Musk's SpaceX and the other by Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin. Their mission will stick close to Earth, with no lunar flyby, and serve as a dress rehearsal for the following year's Artemis IV mission that will attempt to land two astronauts near the lunar south pole.

The moon base will materialise as more rovers, robots, structures and power grids are launched.

Patience is essential for becoming an astronaut, noted Artemis III's Frank Rubio, whose 371 consecutive days in space is a US endurance record. Candidates must also be US citizens with college degrees and professional work experience.

The two years of mandatory training can be gruelling, and it could take several more years after that before finally rocketing into space.

"It's important for them to realise most of that work is not going to the moon, right?" Rubio told AP. "That will be about one per cent of your experience. What you're doing is contributing to the mission of going to the moon."

This will be NASA's 25th astronaut class since the original Mercury Seven in 1959. (AP)

Gunman who killed 6 people in Krakow has 'ultranationalistic' views, authorities say

A Polish man with far-right views drove into a busy central square in Krakow on Saturday and opened fire, killing six people and injuring 15 others before police shot and wounded him, authorities said.

The attack, which Poland's defence minister described as an "act of terror", happened in Main Square, which is in the heart of Krakow's Old Town and is a major tourist hub in the country's second-largest city.

The 25-year-old attacker drove to multiple spots in the square and opened fire at each stop with an automatic weapon, authorities said. Although they didn't release his name, Interior Minister Marcin Kierwiński said the man holds "very radical" and "ultranationalistic" views.

"Everything indicates that he was fascinated by far-right ideologies," Kierwiński said at a news conference.

Hours after the attack, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said authorities found the bodies of three of the suspect's close family members, two women and a man, inside his home in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, a city about 150 kilometres (93 miles) northeast of Krakow.

"We have the next acts of this tragedy," Tusk told reporters.

Four women and two men were killed in the Krakow attack. At least three of the women were Polish, and one of the dead was a UK citizen, authorities said. Police were still trying to identify the other two people who were killed.

A total of 13 people were hospitalised in serious condition, authorities said, though that figure may include the gunman, who underwent surgery after the attack.

It's unclear how many of the injured were shot. Two of them were treated and released within hours of the mass shooting. Two police officers were seriously injured, Kierwiński said. Five non-Poles were also injured, police



commander Marek Boroń said.

The attacker wore military-style fatigues and a bulletproof vest, and used a military-type long gun, Krakow police spokesperson Katarzyna Cisło said. Police found other weapons and ammunition in his car. He kept firing at the police even after being shot himself, she said.

The attacker engaged in a "wild ride" around Main Square, which is why people were wounded at several locations, said Cisło, adding that the gunman appears to have acted alone.

Krakow Mayor Łukasz Gibała said the city will be in official mourning until Wednesday. He vowed that Krakow will remain open to visitors, despite the tragedy.

"The square will belong to us again," Gibała said in a video posted on X.

Videos posted on social media by witnesses show people running away from the square to take cover on small streets nearby, as well as first responders trying to resuscitate victims. In one video, a police officer is seen repeatedly shooting the attacker, who is lying on the street, only to later slowly collapse himself to the ground.

Photos showed a Polish Medical Air Rescue helicopter after it landed in the square.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the gun used in the attack or those found in the attacker's car are legal. Around 411,000 people hold gun permits in Poland, which has a population of 37 million, and interest in gun ownership has been rising.

Mass shootings are uncommon in Poland. However, in mid-October, three attacks at schools in the central province of Mazovia took place within four days, leaving one person dead and many wounded, including children.

The Krakow attacker's military gear, guns and overall look were similar to those of other "extreme right lone actors" committing attacks around Europe, said Kacper Rekawek, a senior researcher at the International Center for Counterterrorism in The Hague. "We have had attempts before, but now we can say that these kinds of attacks have become successful in Poland."

Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski announced increased security measures, including road barriers, along main streets in the old town in the Polish capital in the aftermath of the Krakow attack. (AP)

Trump says deportation policy was 'too tough' — CBS interview



US President Donald Trump said that his mass deportation of undocumented immigrants was "too tough", according to an excerpt of an interview with CBS aired Sunday.

Asked about his deportation policy, Trump told CBS' "60 Minutes": "I think it was too tough…I think it might be too tough."

The excerpt was published by CBS on X ahead of a broadcast of the interview on network TV later Sunday. It was recorded after the Republican Party's heavy loss in midterm elections on Tuesday.

While Trump has won some domestic support for securing the US southern border, his administration's aggressive push to deport millions of undocumented migrants has drawn widespread criticism.

However, Trump on Friday appointed the architect of that hardline policy, Stephen Miller, as his chief of staff, signalling a bare-knuckle fightback after the Republican election loss.

Miller has been synonymous with scenes of masked immigration agents committing violence after he backed federal agents who shot and killed two Americans early this year. (AFP)





COP31 opens with leaders under pressure to tackle climate crisis



The COP31 climate talks kicked off Monday with an early fight over money as the UN's chief urged world leaders to "get serious" about tackling the crisis after a year of devastating weather extremes.

Antonio Guterres made his plea as thousands of participants descended on a sprawling expo centre in the Turkish Mediterranean city of Antalya for the UN's annual two-week climate conference.

The summit comes after a year of punishing heatwaves in Europe, major wildfires in Indonesia and catastrophic floods in Nepal, with an exceptionally strong El Nino weather phenomenon fuelling more climate chaos.

"We have entered a new age of climate extremes," Guterres said in a statement.

The UN secretary-general urged leaders to "get serious by cutting emissions faster, accelerating a just transition from fossil fuels and delivering the finance and protection vulnerable countries need".

The COP31 opening ceremony opened an hour-and-a-half late without explanation.

Negotiators had been locked in discussions late Sunday over demands by developing nations to include items on climate finance in the official agenda.

"This has already been a difficult start for COP31," said Jasper Inventor, head of Greenpeace's COP31 delegation.

Under UN climate agreements, developed countries, which are historically responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions, have provided financial support to help developing nations adapt to climate impacts and transition to cleaner energy. But poorer countries say the sums remain insufficient.

Inventor said developed countries took a "hard line" over whether to include a platform, agreed at COP30 in Brazil last year, aimed at discussing how wealthy nations should provide funds to developing nations.

The "climate finance work programme" was ultimately included in the agenda.

African countries had also pushed for the agenda to include the tripling

of adaptation finance, which aims to help poorer nations pay for measures such as building sea walls or planting drought-resistant crops.

But that point was not made a stand-alone agenda item.

A senior European Union official warned last week that there would be "no political will" for extra funding pledges at COP31.

Observers expect few major breakthroughs at COP31 as countries grapple with an oil price shock and geopolitical tensions fuelled by the US war with Iran and Russia's conflict in Ukraine.

The long-term climate outlook is bleak: the United Nations warned in September that global temperatures were on course to exceed 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, breaching the most ambitious threshold set by the Paris Agreement.

Turkey is presiding over COP31, with Australia leading negotiations under an unusual arrangement that settled a dispute over who would host the conference but raised concerns over how it would work.

The two sides have celebrated their cooperation so far, with COP31 President Murat Kurum, who is also Turkey's environment minister, and Australian Climate Minister Chris Bowen raising their clasped hands above their heads to applause during the opening ceremony.

The partners have branded the summit as the "implementation COP", focusing on turning commitments into concrete action after years of pledges and ambitious announcements.

"We know that delay carries one of the heaviest costs in climate action," Kurum said.

Turkey is inviting countries to join a voluntary "electrification" pledge to raise the share of global energy demand met by electricity from around 20 percent today to 35 percent by 2035.

But the initiative could become a source of friction.

The European Union has called for "clean" electrification, a term that could spark debate over the role of oil, gas and coal in the Turkish proposal.

Countries committed to transition away from fossil fuels in a landmark pact at COP28 in Dubai in 2023 but have struggled to agree on how to turn that pledge into action.

COP30 ended with a deal that made no explicit mention of fossil fuels after oil-producing countries opposed the language.

Instead, Brazil produced a voluntary "roadmap" with proposals for phasing out fossil fuels that each country can tailor to their circumstances.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who will be among leaders addressing COP31 later this week, was due to attend the talks, fresh from a re-election win that activists hailed as a victory for climate change.

But climate diplomacy is still missing a major player as climate-sceptic US President Donald Trump has not sent officials to COP31.

A US congressional delegation, however, will come to Antalya, with Democrats beaming after last week's historic US midterm election win. (AFP)





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

Defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) and last season's second-place finishers, Antigua Grammar School (AGS), remain as front-runners in the Boys Under-14 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League.

Both teams continue to occupy the top two positions after recording wins in the latest round of matches at the Bolans playing field on Saturday.

The Princess Margaret School maintained their unbeaten run in defense of their title to remain at the top of the standings with 14 points by securing their fourth win in six matches with a 3-0 victory against All Saints Secondary School (ASSS).

The goals for PMS were scored by Aiquan Scott in the sixth minute, Teejay Hodge in the 32nd minute, and J'Den Gordon in the 39th minute as All Saints Secondary School tumbled to their second successive defeat after drawing and winning their previous two matches.

David Livingstone and Shamani Abramis both scored twice as the Antigua Grammar School moved within a point of PMS by surging to their fourth win in six matches with a 6-0 drubbing of St. Joseph's Academy (SJA).

Livingstone scored in the 12th and 18th minutes, while Abramis had conversions in the 30th and 34th minutes. The other goals for AGS were scored by T'andre James in the 11th minute and Malachi John in the 40th minute.

St. Joseph's Academy remain on six points after crashing to their second defeat in four matches.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) and Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) also remain unbeaten after four matches.

Karique Martin scored four times as the Sir Novelle Richards Academy picked up their second win to advance to eight points with a 5-1 drubbing of Jennings Secondary School.

Martin had conversions in the 13th, 20th, 35th, and 50th minutes, while teammate Zadane Wyre scored the other goal for SNRA with a strike in the 38th minute.

Gemini Daniels scored a consolation goal in the 37th minute for Jennings Secondary School, which remains on eight points after slumping to their first loss in five matches.

Zadeak Telemaque struck a hat trick as Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) also advanced to eight points after securing their second win with a 5-2 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS).

Telemaque had conversions in the third, 15th, and 29th minutes. The other goals for CHSS were scored by Kaliel Burnett in the fourth minute and Nicholl George in the 22nd minute.

Veron Roberts produced a 20th-minute conversion, and Shomarie Joseph scored in the 35th minute for St. Mary's Secondary School, which remains on three points after tumbling to their fourth defeat in five matches.

Warner backs Khawaja's Sandpapergate account



Australia's Usman Khawaja leaves the ground after losing his wicket during day two of the first test cricket match between Sri Lanka and Australia in Galle, Sri Lanka, Jan. 30, 2025. (AP)

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — David Warner has supported an account of the so-called Sandpapergate cheating scandal implicating the entire team in the episode that rocked Australian cricket in 2018 and led to the lengthy suspensions for him, Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft.

Days after excerpts of a soon-to-be-released book written by his Australia teammate Usman Khawaja implied the three players suspended in the Cape Town ball-tampering episode were scapegoats for the team, Warner posted on a video on Instagram Monday saying, "It's 100% accurate what you've said."

"It's been eight years since I spoke on this topic. Uzzy, I throw my full support behind you. I thank you for what you've done," Warner said in the video.

"Now everyone knows the truth. It's out there. People wanted to know it. You've come out and said it.

"It's been a tough time for my family (and), Steven and Cameron, no doubt. But this is what needed to come out. I fully support that, Uzzy."

For eight years, Cricket Australia, team management and other players have rejected claims that everyone was in on the plot to use sandpaper to scuff the ball to make it swing unconventionally through the air during a test against South Africa at Cape Town.

The host broadcaster filmed evidence of Bancroft using sandpaper on the ball during the match. The resulting scandal engulfed the series, generated global headlines and resulted in the harshest penalties ever imposed for ball tampering in international cricket.

Bancroft was suspended by Cricket Australia for nine months. Smith and Warner, then the captain and vice-captain of the test team, were suspended from all cricket for a year.

After making emotional apologies to the Australian public on returning home from South Africa, the three suspended players rarely spoke publicly of the investigation. Smith and Warner made successful returns to the Australian team in 2019.

On Monday, Warner said the Cricket Australia investigation into the ball-tampering scandal in 2018 was "rushed and botched."

Khawaja, who was playing in the test match, said he'd wanted the entire team to take responsibility but was advised against it. He retired from international cricket in January and said he'd promised Warner, his childhood friend, that "I would tell the truth."

Khawaja's recounting of the episode generated a diverse reaction in Australia. Some supported his decision to publish his version of events, albeit eight years later, and others were critical of the timing.

Warner, in a message with his video post, wrote "some things are bigger than cricket."

"This isn't about reopening old wounds. It's about acknowledging that some wounds never properly healed," Warner wrote.

"I stand with my brother Usman Khawaja. Speaking your truth takes courage, especially when people would rather you stay silent. Time passing doesn't replace accountability, and asking questions shouldn't be mistaken for holding grudges."

Warner, who retired from cricket's traditional format in 2024 with 112 Test caps, said he decided to comment now after talking to his young daughters over recent days about what transpired in that match and later.

"Perhaps it's time people stop scrutinizing the person asking for accountability, and start asking those responsible for the investigation to provide it."

APUA stay in touch with ECAB in business volleyball league

Former champions APUA Inet won their latest matches to stay in second place behind leaders the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship.

APUA Inet kept their unbeaten run intact with a record of six wins in as many games by winning their latest two matches at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

APUA Inet surged to a 2-0 victory over Royalton, prevailing 25-20 and 25-16. The Royalton remains seventh in the nine-team round-robin league after slumping to their fifth loss in six encounters.

APUA Inet also snatched a 2-1 victory against 77 Bus Service, winning 25-23, 21-25, and 15-11 in a keenly contested encounter in the mixed-team competition.

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank strengthened their position at the top of the standings, extending their unbeaten run to six wins in as many games with a 2-0 victory against the University of the West Indies (UWI).

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank stave off a tough challenge to prevail 25-22 and 26-24 against the University of the West Indies, who remain in fifth place after slumping to their third loss in six encounters.

Nate's Photography remains in third place after recording their fourth win in six matches with a 2-0 victory over the Media.

Nate's Photography won the encounter 25-17 and 25-22 against the Media, who remain in sixth place after suffering their fourth loss in six games.

Zamine Enterprises snatched a 2-1 win against 77 Bus Service in a bottom-of-the-table clash. Zamine Enterprises prevailed 25-15, 24-26, and 15-13 to remain second from the bottom of the standings by recording their first win in six matches.

The 77 Bus Service remain winless and in the cellar after crashing to their sixth defeat in as many games.



The APUA Inet volleyball team

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Sports News

Windies draw second Test to win series in Bangladesh



The West Indies team celebrate with the trophy after winning the two-Test series in Bangladesh following a draw in the second match on the final day in Sylhet, Bangladesh, on Monday, November 9, 2026. (CWI Media)

SYLHET, Bangladesh (AP) — Towhid Hridoy hit 82 as Bangladesh salvaged a draw against West Indies in the second cricket Test on Monday.

Hridoy, who struck an epic 242 not out in the first innings, steered the side to 184 for four before the bad light forced a premature end to the match, while chasing 369 for an unlikely victory.

By doing so, Hridoy became first Bangladeshi batter to hit a double century and a half-century in the same Test.

The West Indies, who won the series 1-0 following their eight-wicket victory in the first Test, declared their second innings at 398 for six after resuming the final day on 345 for three. That left Bangladesh two and a half sessions to chase down the target.

"We were in a great position to push for a win, but I thought Hridoy also played a great innings and that's what Test cricket is about," West Indies skipper Roston Chase said.

"Sometimes you think that you're in a commanding position and then someone comes and does something spectacular."

Overnight batsman Kavem Hodge added just two runs before being dismissed for 142, while Amir Jangoo, who scored 133 in the first innings, remained unbeaten on 39.

Bangladesh spinners shared all six wickets to fall with Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, and Mehidy Hasan claiming two wickets each.

Bangladesh, however, made a shaky start to their chase as opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim was dismissed for 21 after holing out, before Jomel Warrican trapped captain Najmul Hossain Shanto leg-before for 14.

With Bangladesh reeling at 40 for two, West Indies sniffed a chance to push for a victory but Hridoy and Mushfiqur Rahim combined for a 135-run for the third wicket to ruin the visitors hopes.

The pair remained unscathed throughout the second session to make a West Indies victory unlikely.

Left-arm spinner Warrican dismissed Hridoy to break the partnership in the last session and ended the innings with three for 44, while Shamar Joseph sent back Mushfiqur for 49.

"Warrican bowled well in both games. He controlled his economy rate very well," Chase said.

"That was the hallmark of his bowling throughout the series, along with spinning and straightening as well. I thought that he really kept us in this series and really won the series for us."

During his knock, Mushfiqur completed 7,000 Test runs as the first Bangladeshi batter. The bad light however brought an end to the game with Litton Das (7) and Mehidy Hasan (1) in the crease.

Earlier in the Test, the West Indies were bowled out for 356 in their first innings, with Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud claiming an impressive six for 90.

Hridoy then produced a career-defining innings of 242 not out to lift Bangladesh to 386, securing a 30-run first-innings lead.

"We did not play good cricket, and it is important to accept that," Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said.

"The way we have been playing this format, I don't think we could even produce 50% of our usual cricket. Had we planned and executed better, the result could have been different."

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Antigua regain OECS Swim Championship title



Antigua and Barbuda dethroned Grenada as champions of the ANOCES Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Swimming Championships during the 34th edition of the three-day event in St. Lucia.

After finishing fourth at last year's event in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antiguans regained the OECS Swimming Championship from the Grenadians during the 2026 competition at the Rodney Heights Aquatic Centre in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, from November 6 to 8.

This win is significant, as it is Antigua and Barbuda's fourth title in a five-year span. Antigua and Barbuda took home a total of 138 medals, comprising 51 gold, 54 silver, and 33 bronze.

Host St. Lucia finished in the runners-up position for the second successive year. The St. Lucians bagged a total of 101 medals, which included 44 gold, 24 silver, and 33 bronze.

Grenadines clinched third place by securing 77 medals, comprising 20 gold, 26 silver, and 31 bronze.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines took fourth place with a total of 60 medals, consisting of 15 gold, 21 silver, and 24 bronze.

Like last year, St. Kitts & Nevis finished in fifth place with 11 medals, including three gold, four silver, and four bronze.

St. Maarten finished second from the bottom of the standings with a total of nine medals, comprising one gold, four silver, and four bronze.

Dominica finished in the cellar with a total of four bronze medals.

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