

BOOBY ALLEY HOUSING PROJECT BREAKS GROUND

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奠基仪式 Groundbreaking Ceremony



Local News



The Booby Alley Project: A&B's most significant social developmental project ever

Parliamentary Representative for the St. John's City West Constituency and Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, has described the Booby Alley Housing project as the country's most significant social development project ever.

PM Browne made the observation on Monday in an address at the ground breaking ceremony for the project at Booby Alley. He said it is also significant that the project is taking place not only in one of the poorest communities in the country and one of the poorest areas within that community, Booby Alley.

"As you would recall, we had over 130 small, chattel homes located on three acres of land. It created for the people of Booby Alley a major health hazard as well as a security and fire hazard. Prior to 23 years ago, the alleys would be difficult to traverse as they were nothing but thick mud whenever it rained. I was able to get Allen Stanford to finance a project to pave the alleys to relieve the problem," he recalled.

While it was his desire then to undertake a redevelopment of the area, this proved impossible at the time as the gov-



ernment then did not have the resources and no private sector entity wanted to join in undertaking the project.

Recognising that the ABLP lost office in 2004, PM Browne said the dream never wavered and when in 2014 the ABLP was re-elected he saw the opportunity to revive the project.

"Today, after many years of efforts, we are here to celebrate the ground breaking of this very transformative project. I want to thank the People's Republic of China for making this a reality, because without the grant of 150 condominium homes, the government would not have had the resources to pursue this very important project," he stated.

According to the prime minister special arrangements will be made to re-accommodate the people who previously lived at Booby Alley when the project is completed. But the prime minister is sounding a warning ahead of their return that he expects the people to raise their standards when they move into the new homes in 18 months time.

He is warning that no illegal activities such as drugs or prostitution will be allowed to be conducted on the compound, and he wants the area to be kept clean and even urged the residents to consider beautification programmes for the area on their return.



Corey Roberts (left) with PM Browne... from protestor of Booby Alley project to supporter attending ground breaking event



The ground breaking ceremony was attended by members of the Cabinet as well as the President of the Senate Alincia Grant and the soon-to-be Speaker of the House Osbert Frederick as well as Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yanling, her staff and the contracting firms.

One notable attendee was Corey Roberts, one of those who was involved in the protest actions that nearly cost Antigua and Barbuda the project. He congratulated PM Browne for his determination to see the project through and to thank the MP and leader of government for allowing him to have relatively free accommodation at his present location.

From concept to ground-breaking...the turbulent road of the Booby Alley Project

Chairman of the Booby Alley Urban Development and Renewal Project, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim has outlined in detail many of the challenges that his team encountered in bringing the project from concept to the stage of having the ground breaking taking place even though construction started two days earlier.

Speaking at the ground breaking ceremony at the Booby Alley site on Monday afternoon, Ambassador Pilgrim, noted that the concept and vision for this transformative project were conceived by a son of this very community, someone who never forgot his roots and vowed to empower his people, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne.

He disclosed that the Committee was established in 2022 with the mission of implementing the project to the benefit of the people of the area.

“Our aim has been to create a safe, modern, and inclusive environment—a place where every individual, fam-



Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim

ily, and business can thrive. From the outset, this has been a monumental undertaking and, notably, the first project of its kind within our country.

“We are profoundly grateful to the People’s Republic of China for funding this project and for their continued commitment to supporting Antigua and Barbuda’s development initiatives,” he emphasised.

Ambassador Pilgrim explained the overall aim of the project as ‘to convert a decapitated area into a modern living space with 150 new housing units for Booby Alley residents’.

Noting that this was a project without precedent, his team went about its task with a commitment to resolve all

the challenges involved with open mind and dedication.

“Our dedicated team, with sub-teams overseeing Legal Affairs, Accommodations, Demolition and Transport, Construction and Building Maintenance, and Social Welfare, have been committed to the complexities and challenges this mission entails.

“We embarked on this journey with the understanding that meaningful transformation requires not only physical infrastructure but also careful attention to social dynamics, community engagement, and legal considerations,” he stated.

He also provided insights of several of the tasks that

have been completed to ensure that the Booby Alley residents were properly housed after they were removed from the site ahead of the preparatory work that needed to be done. “As part of our commitment to community-centered planning, we built 22 homes at Bay Street and Pestaina Street and restored the property formerly known as the Barrymore Hotel to house displaced residents.

“The process has been challenging. Accommodations within government properties proved insufficient, prompting us to secure private rentals in areas such as Cassada Gardens, Hatton, Potters, Villa, Paynters, and Cedar Grove,” he disclosed.



Ambassador Zhang: China understands the significance of housing

Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Zhang Yanling, said her country is cognizant of the significance of providing housing for people.

She was speaking at the ground breaking ceremony on Monday at Booby Alley, where the People Republic of China will finance the construction of 150 condominium homes for the people who previously lived in what was one of the most depressed places in the country.

“China fully understands the importance of this project to the government and residents of Antigua and Barbuda. As we all know, Housing is not only an imminent need for people’s livelihood but also an issue of development. It has much bearing on people’s well-being and on overall economic and social development,” she stated.

Ambassador Zhang noted that the project has been in the planning stage



Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Zhang Yanling

for some time but that she is happy that it has reached the point here construction started two days ahead of the ground-breaking ceremony.

“From the agreement on economic and technical cooperation between our two countries, to the inspection meeting of the feasibility study, from the exchange of notes that China will undertake the project, to today’s official commencement of the construction, we both have made unremitting efforts to overcome all the difficulties, expected or unexpected,” she observed.

Meanwhile, Project Manager of the Project Management Company, China Northeast Architectural Design & Research Institute Co., Ltd, Song Jianhui, said his company is promising that the project will adhere to international standards at all phases of the development.

“Since December 2022, our company has conducted professional inves-



tigations, geological surveys, drawing designs, and other work related to the project. During the preparation process, we deeply understood that every detail is crucial to future residential safety and the happiness of residents. Therefore, we strictly adhere to international standards and best practices, striving for excellence in every step, from design planning and material selection to construction management and quality control,” he assured.

Also addressing the ceremony was the General Manager of the General Contract company, Wei Shiquan, who provided details about the project.

“The 150-Unit Affordable Housing Project in Antigua and Barbuda is a livelihood project implemented by the Chinese government to promote sustainable development in Antigua and Barbuda. The project started on October 26, 2024, and is scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2026. It covers a construction area of 13,800 square meters, consisting of nine buildings with 150 residential units,” he disclosed.

He said upon completion, the project will improve the living conditions and quality of life for the people of Antigua and Barbuda, bringing greater benefits to the local community.



Antigua and Barbuda to share in PAHO's pandemic fund

The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) has announced that several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are to share in a US\$81. Million Pandemic Fund designed to boost preparedness in the region.

PAHO announced that as part of its second round of funding, the Pandemic Fund (PF) has approved five new projects for Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed at improving countries' preparedness for future pandemics.

"Projects selected by the multilateral financing mechanism will benefit ten countries across the region (Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, and six Eastern Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

The grants, which total 84.1 million US dollars, will be used to enhance disease surveillance and early warning systems, improve laboratories, and develop the health workforce, among other key activities, a PHO statement noted.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will play an active role in supporting four of the five new projects as an implementing entity, collaborating closely with government actors and other delivery partners and key stakeholders.

"This financing represents a critical investment in enhancing pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean," Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, PAHO Director said. "Our region was the hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 mpox outbreak,

and continues to face substantial risks from the emergence and re-emergence of pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, as illustrated by the current outbreak of Oropouche disease virus," he added.

PAHO said the Pandemic Fund received a total of 146 proposals during its second call, with funding requests totaling US\$4.6 billion, almost 10 times the available budget of \$500 million. In total, 23 projects were approved globally, allocating US\$418 million overall. A further US\$128.89 million was allocated by the Fund in September 2024 to 5 projects addressing the current mpox outbreak in Africa.

"While the funds allocated to Latin America and the Caribbean will be critical, they represent just 20% of the

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Local News



Ministry of Health focuses on food safety at Independence

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares for its annual Independence celebrations, the Ministry of Health is urging citizens, visitors, and food vendors to prioritize health, nutrition, and food safety. With community gatherings, cultural events, and food stalls expected to attract large crowds, the Ministry wants everyone to enjoy the festivities in a safe and health-conscious manner.

The Ministry encourages attendees to make thoughtful choices when selecting foods, focusing on balanced nutrition to maintain energy levels throughout the day.

Ideal options include a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables for vitamins and hydration, whole grains like brown rice and oats for sustained energy, and lean proteins such as grilled chicken, fish, and legumes to support strength and stamina. By choosing nutrient-dense foods over items high in

sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats, citizens can enjoy the flavors of traditional Antiguan and Barbudan cuisine while supporting their health.

Food safety is also a critical concern, especially with outdoor vendors and temporary kitchens set up for the holiday. To prevent foodborne illnesses, vendors and those preparing food for gatherings should keep hot foods at 140°F (60°C) or higher and cold foods at 40°F (4°C) or lower, using thermometers to ensure safe temperatures.

Proper storage is important to avoid cross-contamination, keeping raw and cooked foods separate, especially with items like salads and fruits. Hygiene is essential as well; vendors are encouraged to maintain clean preparation areas, wash hands frequently, and avoid handling food if feeling unwell. Labeling ingredients where possible helps those with allergies or dietary restrictions make safe choices.

tions make safe choices.

As part of a balanced approach to the Independence season, the Ministry also encourages moderation in alcohol consumption and stresses the importance of staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water, particularly in outdoor settings where the heat can be intense. Healthy snack options for children, such as fruit or yogurt, are recommended, and seniors are encouraged to maintain a balanced diet to support their enjoyment of the celebrations.

With a focus on nutrition and food safety, the Ministry of Health hopes to foster a healthy and resilient community this Independence season. Citizens are encouraged to celebrate responsibly, making food choices that prioritize health and well-being for a joyful and nutritious holiday. The Ministry wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Independence celebration.

UN/SDG walk on Saturday morning



World Stroke Day is October 29

It's World Stroke Day today and the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Antigua and Barbuda is rallying the community to take proactive steps towards stroke prevention under this year's global theme, #GreaterThanStroke. This theme emphasizes that stroke is preventable and treatable, and with the right actions, individuals can overcome the risks and consequences associated with it.

"As we observe World Stroke Day, the Foundation encourages individuals to take charge of their health. Simple lifestyle changes - such as increasing physical activity, reducing fast food consumption, eating more fruits and vegetables, and lowering your salt intake - can dramatically reduce the risk of stroke and heart disease," said Dr. Georgette Meade, Consultant Cardiologist and President of the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Antigua and Barbuda.

These efforts align perfectly with this year's #GreaterThanStroke theme, reminding everyone that stroke prevention is within our control.

As part of its ongoing commitment to combating stroke and promoting heart health, the Foundation is also preparing for its 6th Annual Cardiac Symposium, scheduled for February 16th, 2025, at Sandals Grande Resort & Spa.

This prestigious event will focus on the latest advancements in stroke and cardiac care, providing an opportunity for healthcare professionals and the public alike to learn more about



prevention strategies and treatment innovations.

Reflecting on the success of the 5th Annual Cardiac Symposium held on February 25th, 2024, the Foundation continues to emphasize the critical role of primordial prevention in stroke risk reduction. Last year's event, which attracted over 190 participants, highlighted the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle habits before risk factors develop. Consultant Neurologist at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC), Dr. Gaden Osborne, emphasized this during his presentation on "Stroke Care in Antigua and Barbuda."

"Primordial prevention is key," Dr. Osborne explained. "By encouraging healthy behaviours like proper diet, regular physical activity, and maintaining wellness in those without existing risk factors, we can significantly reduce the likelihood of stroke." His

message resonated with attendees, underscoring the symposium's focus on addressing stroke risk early on.

The 6th Annual Cardiac Symposium will build on this foundation, exploring the theme: «Navigating Modern Health: Technology, Mental Well-being, Stroke & Cardiac Care.» Presentations will cover a wide range of topics, including:

Acute Stroke Management

Artificial Intelligence in Stroke Care

The Effects of Cannabis Use on the Heart

The Impact of Chronic Stress, Anxiety, and Depression on Cardiac Health

As the Heart & Stroke Foundation continues to lead the fight against cardiovascular disease and stroke, it invites everyone to join in the effort to be #GreaterThanStroke by embracing healthier habits and staying informed.

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total funds requested, highlighting the urgent need for more sustainable financing for pandemic preparedness in our region," Dr. Barbosa said.

The Pandemic Fund is

a catalytic financing mechanism which provides important resources to advance pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) capacities while incentivizing further investment in PPR. It is part of a

wider movement towards reaching more sustainable financing for PPR for national and global health security.

Hosted by the World Bank, the Pandemic Fund has already supported four

projects in the Americas under its first round of financing, totaling \$45 million in grant funds.

A third call for proposals is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2025.

Director of International Trade now a United Nations Fellow

Antigua and Barbuda's Director of International Trade and Sustainable Development Goals Focal Point, Joy-Marie King is now a United Nations Fellow.

King was among the first cohort of the United Nations-Portugal Ocean Fellowship on Sustainable Ocean Governance and Blue Economy convened in Lisbon, Portugal. Twenty-one candidates were awarded the coveted fellowship chosen from among a list of accomplished heads of national agencies overseeing and responsible for Ocean Policy and/or Ambassadors or their equivalents holding decision-making responsibility in the areas of ocean policy, governance and economy of developing countries.



According to Director King, the purposes of the UN - Portugal Ocean

Fellowship Program were to:

“Provide high-level ocean policy officials from UN Member States with access to a capacity-sharing program tailored to the needs of decision-makers, as well as empowering a new generation of leaders with the knowledge and skills to address pressing Ocean-related issues;

Build capacity in developing countries with the view to assisting in the driving of innovative solutions to protect and preserve our marine ecosystems, while promoting economic growth and equity;

Facilitate international cooperation and information sharing on ocean-related issues; and

Support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, in line with both the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the priorities of the 2030 Portuguese Development Cooperation Strategy.”

King said she saw the fellow-
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Kesha Willock of SLBMC named Caribbean Nurse of the Year

Antigua and Barbuda's Kesha Willock has been named as Caribbean Nurse of the Year, 2024.

Nurse Willock is a registered nurse and a midwife who is part of the medical staff at the country's main health institution, the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

"We believe in celebrating excellence in nursing, and we are thrilled that such a prestigious honour was awarded to a SLBMC nurse. Congratulations to the Caribbean Nurse of the Year, our very own Kesha Willock!

"This remarkable individual has gone above and

beyond, embodying the true spirit of what it means to be a great nurse.

Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to patient care inspire us all.

Whether it's through her comforting words, expert skills, or tireless advocacy, she consistently makes a positive differ-

ence in the lives of those she serves," SLBMC said in a statement issued overnight.

"I love nursing and I think all my colleagues are nurses of the year—we have been through so much — And personally, through the pandemic, I have learned to be so thankful, grateful and apprecia-

tive of everything," Nurse Willock said moments after she learnt that she had received the award.

Nurse Willock is a Registered Nurse, Certified Midwife and Electroencephalographic (EEG) Technologist. She is also currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSn).

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ship as a unique opportunity as it brought together counterparts from around the world to discuss, at an expert level, many of the challenges facing small island developing states.

"Of concern, was sea-level rise and the potential legal implications, specifically if islands are lost over time; what would happen to their populations even if they moved to other countries to live; what about issues of nationality and what of property owners, how will they be compensated," according to King these were some of the thorny issues discussed by the panel.



Local News



Scores of nationals attend Independence Thanksgiving service in New York City

It was standing room only when Antiguan and Barbudans filled the pews of the Westchester Methodist Church in the Bronx on Sunday as they came together to give thanks for the 43 years of nationhood of the country of their birth.

The Independence Service is organized annually by the Antigua and Barbuda Consulate General in New York and traditionally brings nationals from the tri-state area to solemnly reflect on the significant strides of the nation, while celebrating

their heritage and enduring connection to a land they still call home.

The service was filled with inspiring messages from the country's political leadership, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the collection of Antiguan and Barbudan clergy who presided over the proceedings. Also bringing greetings was Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson.

In his message, de-

livered on his behalf by Consular Officer Michelle Lightfoot, Prime Minister Browne sung the praises of the Antigua and Barbuda diaspora for the role they continue to play in the country's development.

He pointed to the example of the pandemic as a prime example of the firmly entrenched familial ties that have allowed the country to survive tough times, making it possible for Antigua and Barbuda to enjoy substantial economic growth today.

"While my govern-

ment's policies account for the phenomenal growth, the contributions by the diaspora to their families, friends and commerce in the country were substantial," he stated.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Elouise Hill-Challenger, who encouraged the congregation of fellow Antiguan and Barbudans to reflect on times past to highlight the many blessings that have fallen on the nation as a result of the country's leadership.

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Christopher 'Neville' Browne turns 102 today!

The Community Development and Citizens Engagement Division, under the Ministry of Social Transformation, proudly celebrates the life of Christopher Browne, affectionately known as Neville Browne.

Born on October 29, 1922, Mr. Browne exem-

plifies resilience, love, and community spirit. His legacy of kindness and dedication continues to inspire all who have had the privilege of knowing him.

The official ceremony involving the Governor General's Deputy will be held at his residence at this morning.



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"Look at Antigua and Barbuda now. We have evolved, we have progressed, we have grown, we have expanded, and we

have moved from local to global. What a blessing!" Rev. Hill Challenger stated.

"The leadership of Antigua and Barbuda has been one of action to

encourage unity, unity that allows us to say, 'remember when'," she continued, urging nationals to make use of their numerous skills and resources to tap into the fabric of the new Antigua and Barbuda.

Ambassador Webson described the work of the Consulate General as a humbling experience to be working tirelessly to serve the thousands of Antiguan and Barbudans who seek to maintain their connections to their homeland, even from abroad.

"Thank you for your support and we trust in God that we will continue to provide for you the type of support that you deserve and the high standards of service that we Antiguan and Barbudans are known for," Ambassador Webson stated.

In addition, Attache at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission Jackley Peters gave a moving tribute to the late Dr. Patrick Lewis, a former

Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, who passed away earlier this year.

Also leading prayers during the service was an all Antiguan and Barbudan clergy that included Rev. Dr. Ava Jolley, Evangelist Patricia Ralph, Rev. Dr. Dave Allen, Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards, and Rev. Dr. Freddie Mason.

The Antigua and Barbuda International Chorale, directed by the Very Rev. Belgrave Pelle and the City South Steel Orchestra, led the singing patriotic songs in the flag waving and music filled celebration to give thanks for the country's celebration of 43 years of Independence.

The celebration continues on November 16 when Antiguan and Barbudans in New York gather for the annual Independence Gala on at the Glen Island Harbour Club.



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Technology



Apple's AI features roll out on iPhones - but not for all

By Liv McMahon

After a long wait, Apple has finally released its artificial intelligence (AI) tools for iPhone - to a select few.

Apple Intelligence, a suite of AI tools announced in June, became available to owners of some iPhones around the world on Monday.

The new features include notification summaries, tools to assist users in writing messages, and a glowing new interface for virtual assistant Siri.

But they will only be available to people with the latest devices - including all iPhone 16 models, and the iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max.

Apple Intelligence is also available on Mac computers and iPad tablets that are powered by its latest chips.

But some of the tools made avail-

able on Monday have arrived later than equivalent features on other popular devices.

Apple chief executive Tim Cook said the public release of its AI tools introduced "a new era" for its products.

It comes after the company said on Friday it would reward ethical hackers who could demonstrate vulnerabilities in its AI software with a bounty of up to \$1m (£770,000).

The bundle of features released on Monday in its iOS 18.1 update are the first wave of AI tools previously shown off at Apple's summer developer conference.

More features expected later this year include generating images and emoji from text prompts.

Google and Samsung have already introduced AI features to their devices.

These include allowing users to translate conversations in real-time, automatically organise notes, and search for something online by drawing a circle around it.

While initially making its Galaxy AI features available on its latest handsets, Samsung widened it to include S22 devices released in 2022.

The South Korean tech giant said in February it planned to introduce Galaxy AI for more than 100 million users within 2024.

Apple's new Clean Up tool, allowing people to remove unwanted objects or people from an image, also follows Google's previous release of a similar tool called Magic Eraser.

Mr Cook told the Wall Street Journal in October that the company was "perfectly fine with not being first", adding it "takes a while to get it really great".

EIB and CDB partner to boost resilience to climate change in Caribbean

Water supply and management and the ocean ecosystem across the Caribbean will receive much-needed support thanks to a new joint initiative announced by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

A €100 million (USD109.4 million) loan from the EIB will boost CDB support to projects that secure the supply of clean water, improve collection and treatment of wastewater and solid waste and upgrade flood prevention.

The investments will help countries adapt to more frequent periods of drought or intense rain caused by climate change and contribute to environmental sustainability through reduced ocean pollution.

The eligible countries for the EIB-supported investments are Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.

“CDB and the EIB continue to enjoy a mutually beneficial collaboration, with this latest initiative providing access to addi-



European Investment Bank (EIB) Vice President Ambroise Fayolle (left) and Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) President (Ag.) Isaac Solomon display the signed agreement for a new joint initiative between the two institutions, announced in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, October 24, 2024.

tional concessional resources to 14 states, representing almost three-quarters of CDB's Borrowing Member Countries. More importantly, those countries represent over 19 million people. Resources such as these are therefore deeply appreciated, as adequate water and sanitation services, and the prevention of water-related disasters, are key to achieving and maintaining development in our region,” said Acting CDB President Isaac Solomon.

“The vulnerability of

small island states on the frontline of climate change is at the centre of discussions here in Washington. Working together we can achieve a far greater impact in tackling these challenges than working alone.

“Partnerships, like the European Investment Bank's longstanding relationship with the Caribbean Development Bank, mean that we can contribute to projects and initiatives such as the one we have signed today, that support communities and

our precious ocean ecosystems as well,” said EIB Vice President Ambroise Fayolle, speaking from Washington DC. “Investing in sustainable water management is vital for the Caribbean small island developing states on the frontline of extreme weather and climate change.”

“Caribbean states emit a fraction of the global greenhouse gasses, yet they are facing the most devastating effects of climate change. The EU is committed to sup-

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Regional News



Police warn skimmers are still very active in Suriname

CMC - Police say that despite making recent arrests, the problem of skimming continues and as a result, people are being asked to be very careful when using credit cards.

In August, the police said they had arrested several Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nationals, on suspicion of 'skimming', a form of fraud in which criminals copy the details of a debit card to steal money from their victims.

The Surinamese Bankers Association (SBA) has issued a warning to citizens to be alert because cases of debit card fraud had been discovered.

The Suriname Cyber Security Incident Response Team (SURCSIRT) of the Directorate of National Security also reported the increase in skimming cases and called on citizens to be alert.

The police say they are receiving frequent reports of people losing funds at banks without having withdrawn money from an ATM and despite the



Skimming (Photo credit: iStock)

recent arrests "the problem has still not been solved.

They are using members of the public to be extra careful when using their debit card, "especially now that it is the end of the month and many people are going to use their debit card"

The police have issued several guidelines to help people avoid being victims of the skimmers, saying that they should preferably withdraw mon-

ey indoors, in a well-lit place and at a busy ATM.

They should also scan their surroundings before withdrawing money as well as check the ATM for damage or foreign devices.

The police warn that skimmers use devices that may look like they belong to the ATM and if persons lose their debit cards or suspect misuse, block it immediately.

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porting its Caribbean partners in the face of climate change and extreme weather through Global Gateway investment strategy. Resilient infrastructure is at the heart of this," said Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships.

The EIB and the CDB have successfully worked together to support projects benefitting the Caribbean region since the EIB's first loan to the CDB in 1978. T

he EIB's Board of Directors last week approved the allocation of a further

€24.4 million (USD26.7 million) to support water supply services in four regions of Guyana, under a previous joint operation with the CDB.

The project in Guyana will improve the supply of clean water to 5 communities through the construction of five new water treatment plants, replacing old pipes and installing water meters.

The new water treatment plants will remove the high iron content in the water and provide water 24 hours a day to all of the households supplied.

The project is expected

to have a significant impact both in terms of sustainable water management and on the health and quality of life of the communities benefiting.

The Caribbean is vulnerable to climate-change-related extreme weather events and sea-level rise.

More violent storms, rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall are increasing the pressure on both water infrastructure and the surrounding seas.

The water sector in the Caribbean is challenged by aging equipment and pipes, leaks, inadequate wastewa-

ter treatment capacity and lack of storage capacity.

Meanwhile, the marine ecosystem and coastal economy and communities are threatened by warmer seas, ocean acidification and storm surges.

Many countries in the Caribbean are small island developing states which are highly vulnerable to climate change while also facing unique economic and social challenges due to their geography. These economies and communities depend on the biodiversity and health of the ocean surrounding them.

Bahamas: Bail revoked for US woman on conspiracy to murder charge

CMC – A former American beauty queen and her boyfriend are due to appear in court on Monday pending an appeal against a High Court judge ruling over the last weekend revoking their bail on charges that they conspired to kill her estranged husband.

Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson revoked the bail of Lindsay Shiver 37, and 30-year-old Terrance Bethel, one of the two Bahamian men with whom she allegedly conspired, citing blatant breaches of bail conditions and her engagement in pre-trial publicity.

Shiver, Bethel and Faron Newbold, Jr, 29, were charged last year with conspiracy to commit murder. They allegedly plotted to kill Shiver's husband, Robert Shiver, on July 16, 2023. Authorities discovered the plot after seizing a phone while investigating another crime.

Justice Grant-Thompson had initially granted Shiver US\$100,000 bail, requiring her to wear an electronic monitoring device, follow an 8 pm to 6 am (local time) curfew, stay at least 100 feet away from the complainant and witnesses, and refrain from traveling abroad without court permission.

Last December, the court varied her bail conditions, allowing her to travel to the United States, but forcing her not to enter Georgia, where her husband lives, unless to engage in custody and divorce proceedings.

But the court heard that on October 3, this year, Shiver and Bethel were interviewed on Good Morning America, allegedly giving in-depth information about their trial, which had not started.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions submitted several affidavits in support of an application to revoke Shiver and Bethel's bail.

The judge said that her interview on Good Morning America was a "blatant



Lindsay Shiver and her husband Robert.

disregard for the court's leniency and indulgence".

"This cannot and will not be tolerated. What the respondents have done can be seen by the applicant as a spit in the face of justice. The applicant has submitted this could influence the views of the potential jurors intending to sit in this trial.

"Thus, potentially affecting the administration of justice. If it were the other way around had counsel for the Crown proceeded on a frolic of their own, making unnecessary comments to the international media, the respondents would likely be 'up in arms.'"

The judge also rejected arguments from the defendant's lawyers about

whether she breached her bail conditions.

"It was clearly laid out that if Mrs Shiver wished to travel or move outside of the designated area, she was first to contact and request the permission of the court," she wrote in her ruling, adding that in revoking Shiver's bail, she was also "taking her out of harm's way", noting the report that her boyfriend tried to "choke and suffocate her with a pillow in Alabama".

"This is a serious concern for the court because this potential situation may inhibit Mrs Shiver's ability to attend the trial for this matter," the judge said.

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Bob's Burger actor gets year in prison for US Capitol riots

By Brandon Drenon

Comedian Jay Johnston has been sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison for his involvement in the 6 January Capitol riot.

He had pleaded guilty in July to a felony count of interfering with law enforcement officers who were trying to stop a mob of Trump supporters from storming the US Capitol.

Johnston, 56, has acting credits in Hollywood going back to the mid-1990s and was fired from his role on animated series Bob's Burgers in December 2021 after being identified as a possible rioter.

Prosecutors had sought a longer prison sentence for Johnston, whose lawyers argued back that the US has "persistently overstated" the actor's role in the attack.

Johnston briefly addressed a Washington DC court on Monday before his sentencing, ABC News reported, and described his role in the attack as "reprehensible".

Judge Carl Nichols men-

tioned Johnston's successful acting career as a reason for his participation being "all the more inexplicable and troubling".

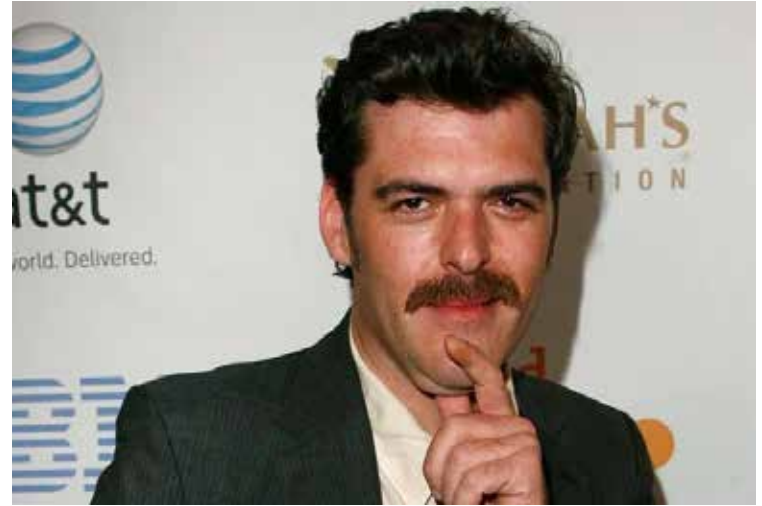
Based on body camera and CCTV footage, authorities have said Johnston "participated with other rioters in a group assault" on police officers protecting a Capitol entrance and "helped carry a stolen police riot shield out".

One police officer was injured at that western entrance.

According to US prosecutors, Johnston showed little remorse for his actions while demonstrating "a clear knowledge of, and participation in, the violence used by rioters that day".

As evidence, prosecutors referred to a picture showing Johnston dressed up as the so-called "QAnon Shaman" at a Halloween party two years after the 2021 incident.

Prosecutors also said that Johnston sent messages to friends and family in the days after the riot, claiming the severity of the attacks



Jay Johnston was identified as a rioter through CCTV and body-camera footage.

were "exaggerated by the media".

Johnston's lawyer, Stanley Woodward, wrote in a sentencing memo that his client has been unfairly targeted "because he is an acclaimed Hollywood actor, and the government is using his status to make a point to the public".

Johnston has "essentially been blacklisted by Hollywood" and "has worked as a handyman for the last two years – an obvious far cry from his actual expertise and livelihood in film and television", Mr Woodward argued.

Johnston had supporting roles in the hit comedy film Anchorman, and in television on Mr Show, Arrested Development and Bob's Burgers, where he voiced fan-favourite character Italian restaurateur Jimmy Pesto.

Nearly 1,500 people have been charged in connection with the 6 January 2021 riot. Almost 900 have pleaded guilty to various crimes, and more than 180 have been convicted at trial, according to US justice department figures.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has said he would pardon some or all of the rioters - whom he has called "hostages" and "political prisoners" - if he won the 5 November election.

He has not given details about who he would release or what criteria he would use to select them.

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In the case of Bethel, who had his bail conditions varied in June, the prosecutors said he did not follow rules for signing in at a police station.

Migrafill Electronic Security Company said he violated his sign-in conditions 12 times between April 29 and October 4, 2024.

"The court does not distribute written and printed bail rulings to the parties because it has nothing better to do nor because it is enamored by the feel of printed paper," Justice Grant-Thompson wrote, adding "written orders and rulings are handed out to the parties to ensure that there is no confusion as to what conditions the accused person must adhere to".

Gaza aid fears as Israel bans UN Palestinian refugee agency

Israel's parliament has voted to pass legislation banning the UN's Palestinian refugee agency (Unrwa) from operating within Israel and Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem, within three months.

Contact between Unrwa employees and Israeli officials will also be banned, severely limiting the agency's ability to operate in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Co-operation with the Israeli military - which controls all crossings into Gaza - is essential for Unrwa to transfer aid into the war-torn territory. It is the main UN organisation working on the ground there.

Unrwa staff will no longer have legal immunity within Israel, and the agency's headquarters in East Jerusalem will be closed.

A number of countries, including the US, the UK and Germany, have expressed serious concern about the move. UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy called it "totally wrong", while Unrwa's chief Philippe Lazzarini said it "will only deepen the suffering of Palestinians".

The US State Department said Unrwa played a "critical" role in distributing humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip. Almost all of the enclave's population of more than two million peo-



ple are dependent on aid and services from the agency.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that "Unrwa workers involved in terrorist activities against Israel must be held accountable", but added that "sustained humanitarian aid must remain available in Gaza".

"We stand ready to work with our international partners to ensure Israel continues to facilitate humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza in a way that does not threaten Israel's security," he said on X.

Israel has objected to Unrwa for decades, although this opposition has intensified in recent years.

Israel says Unrwa staff have colluded with Hamas in Gaza, and claimed 19 Unrwa workers took part in the Hamas attacks of 7 October 2023.

The UN investigated Israel's claim and fired nine of those accused, but it said Israel had not provided evidence for broader allegations. Unrwa insists that dealings with Hamas are purely to enable the agency to do its job.

Israel's parliament, the Knesset, approved the two bills by an overwhelming majority on Monday evening.

Presenting the legislation, Yuli Edelstein, the chairman of the Knesset's foreign affairs and security committee, accused Unrwa of being used as a "cover for terrorist actions".

"There is a deep connection between the terrorist organisation (Hamas) and Unrwa, and Israel cannot put up with it," he said in parliament.

Unrwa - the UN Relief and Works Agency for Pal-

estine Refugees - has for decades provided a range of services and support including healthcare and education to millions of Palestinians in Gaza.

Since the war broke out last year, the agency's presence on the ground has made it a crucial part of efforts to get humanitarian supplies to civilians, almost all of whom are dependent on aid for survival.

Unrwa Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini condemned the ban as "unprecedented", and said it "opposes the UN Charter and violates the State of Israel's obligations under international law".

He said people in Gaza had already endured "sheer hell", adding: "It will deprive over 650,000 girls and boys there from education, putting at risk an entire gen-

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Sports News



Second wins for Grenades and Old Road in Premier League

Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades, and Old Road recorded their second win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

The Grenades notched up their second successive win with a 7-0 drubbing of Parham in the last game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

The goal scorers for the Grenades are Eugene Kirwan in the 14th minute, Sherman Augustin (17th), Barrington Blake (38th), Ridel Stanislaus (57th), Kamol Griffith (73rd), Carl Osborne in the first minute of added time, and Sean Tomlinson in the seventh minute of added time.

Parham remain winless without a point after suffering their second defeat in as many games.

Old Road also claimed



Players of the Jennings Grenades huddle before the start of their Premier League match against Parham at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday, October 27, 2024. (ABFA Media)

their second successive win with a 2-0 victory against the Willikies Warriors in Sunday's opening game.

Following a goalless first half, Joylan Sinclair struck in the 47th minute, and Gisser Joseph scored in the 70th

minute for Old Road to send Willikies to their first defeat in two games.

But the Aston Villa Lions were held to a 2-2 draw by Green City in the second game on Sunday. Joshua Ferdinand scored twice with

goals in the first and 13th minutes for the Villa Lions.

Amali Colbourne scored in the 38th minute to reduce the deficit, and Elijah Whyte scored the equalizer in the 73rd minute to salvage a draw that allowed Green City to pick up their first point after suffering a 1-0 loss to Pigotts Bullets in their first encounter.

Action will resume in the ABFA's First Division with three second round matches on Tuesday at 4:30 pm.

Bendals FC will take on Freeman's Village FC at Bendals, Jennings United will face Tryum at Jennings, and FC Master Ballerz will meet the Ottos Rangers at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

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eration of children."

About two-and-half million Palestinians are registered with Unrwa in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

In northern Gaza, where Israeli troops are conducting military operations against Hamas fighters, hundreds of thousands of people are living in increasingly desperate conditions.

UN human rights chief Volker Türk said on Friday that "the Israeli military is subjecting an entire population to bombing, siege and risk of starvation".

Many Palestinians believe the Israeli

military is implementing a "surrender or starve" plan in Gaza's north, which would see the forced displacement of all of the estimated 400,000 civilians there to the south, followed by a siege of any remaining Hamas fighters.

The Israeli military has denied having such a plan and says it is making sure that civilians get out of harm's way.

Israel launched a campaign to destroy Hamas in response to its 7 October attack on Israel, in which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage. More than 42,710 people have been killed in Gaza since then, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

Anthony among 14 regional women players to get CWI contracts

Antigua and Barbuda's Kimberley Anthony is among fourteen female players across the region who have been awarded year-long annual contracts by Cricket West Indies (CWI) in a groundbreaking milestone in West Indies cricket.

This first-time initiative is a significant step forward in CWI's strategic commitment to elite and high-performance cricket and signals a continued investment in the growth of the women's game in the Caribbean.

It is a significant achievement for Anthony, who honed her skills playing softball cricket in the Mandy Premier League and representing Sagikor Life Enforcers in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) domestic league.

It is the icing on the cake for Anthony, who also made her debut for the Leeward Islands senior team in the 2024 Cricket West Indies CG United Women's Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze regional competitions in St. Kitts from March 4 to 25.

Anthony also represented the Leeward Islands in the Women's Rising Stars Under-19 Championship in 2022 and 2023.

Kittitian all-rounder Melicia Clarke, who represented the Leeward Islands in the 2024 Women's Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze



Kimberly Anthony

regional competitions, has also been given a contract.

Clarke also has close ties to Antigua, having represented Bolans Blasters in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) domestic competition.

This expansion by CWI brings the total of contracted regional players to 104 for the year and 164 in total, including senior and academy players.

CWI Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, noted the significance of this initiative, saying, "Awarding contracts to these talented female players underscores CWI's commitment to advancing cricket in the region. We are extremely proud of the Maroon Warriors, who are on their way back from an impressive

semi-final showing at the Women's T20 World Cup.

"The only way to ensure that West Indies teams, both men and women, have consistent showings at the international level is to ensure the development and growth at the regional level. CWI is dedicated to making this further investment in our regional talent and building a strong foundation for future success, which is in line with our strategic plan."

These contracts reinforce CWI's goal of supporting players as they progress along the pathway to elite performance, creating a sustainable pipeline of talent that can perform on the global stage.

Alongside the female contracts, CWI has also renewed annual contracts for 90 male players across six

territories, maintaining its commitment to building regional strength across both men's and women's cricket.

Contracted Regional Players List 2024/25: 14 Female Contracted Players: Barbados: Shanika Bruce, Alisa Scantlebury; Guyana: Shenetta Grimmond, Plafiana Millington, Mandy Mangru; Jamaica: Celina Whyte; Trinidad & Tobago: Shalini Samaroo, KD Jazz Mitchell, Reniece Boyce; Leeward Islands: Melicia Clarke, Kimberley Anthony; Windward Islands: Earnisha Fontaine, Abini St. Jean, Nerissa Crafton.

Fifteen (15) players from the Leeward Islands are among 90 male contracted players (by territory).

Contracted Leeward Islands men's players: Jewel Andrew (U25), Colin Archibald, Jaleel Clarke, Rahkeem Cornwall, Daniel Doram, Karima Gore, Justin Greaves, Jahmar Hamilton, Kofi James, Jeremiah Louis, Mikyle Louis, Cameron Pennyfeather, Javier Spencer, Oshane Thomas, and Hayden Walsh.

Territorial boards are mandated by CWI to have a minimum of two Under-25 players in their pool of fifteen contracted players. CWI extends congratulation to all the contracted players and expressed its commitment to supporting their development.

Sports News



CG United Super50 Cup kicks off today

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the start of the highly anticipated 2024 CG United Super50 Cup, which will take place in Trinidad from (today) Tuesday, October 29 to Saturday, November 23.

The eight teams competing in this year's CG United Super50 Cup are Trinidad and Tobago Red Force (defending champions), Barbados Pride, Combined Campuses and Colleges, Guyana Harpy Eagles, Jamaica Scorpions, Leeward Islands Hurricanes, West Indies Academy, and the Windward Islands Volcanoes.

The regional one-day competition will commence with two matches on Tuesday's opening day. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Force will launch their title defense against Combined Campuses and Colleges at the University of the West Indies Sport and Physical Education Centre (UWI SPEC), and the Guyana Harpy Eagles will take on the Windward Islands Volcanoes at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

This premier List A regional tournament is an essential platform for showcasing the region's best cricket talent and a vital part of the preparation for future international competitions, including the upcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2027.

Miles Bascombe, CWI's Director of Cricket,



The CG United Super 50 2023 Champions - Trinidad and Tobago Red Force (CWI Media)

highlighted the tournament within the context of a bustling period for West Indies cricket.

"We are in an exciting and busy period for West Indies cricket, with our Maroon Warriors just reaching the semi-finals of the Women's T20 World Cup and our senior men fresh off their tour of Sri Lanka and gearing up to battle rivals - England. The CG United Super50 Cup allows our players to showcase their talents at a crucial time," Bascombe said.

"As we prepare for the Bangladesh tour, performances here could be a springboard for many players looking to represent the region. This tournament is an integral part of our development plans as we build towards the 2027 Men's Cricket World Cup.

He continued, "We are maintaining the bonus points system, as it aligns for our Key Performance

Indicators for our ODI performances, and we look forward to seeing how the players equip themselves for this level of competition."

Rupert Hunter, CWI's new Chief Commercial Officer, emphasized the significance of the event and CG United's support.

"The CG United Super50 Cup continues to be a cornerstone in the development of West Indies cricket, providing our players with the opportunity to demonstrate their skills on a competitive stage. We are incredibly grateful to CG United for their dedicated support, which has helped strengthen our vision for the future of cricket in the region," Hunter said.

For the second consecutive year, teams will also be competing for increased prize money, with the winners set to receive US\$100,000, while the runners-up will take home

US\$50,000. Both semi-finalists will be rewarded US\$25,000 each.

In addition to the thrilling on-field action, fans will be able to watch matches live on ESPN Caribbean for games held at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy (BLCA).

Matches from the Queen's Park Oval (QPO) and the Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground at the University of the West Indies Sport and Physical Education Centre (UWI SPEC) will be streamed live on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel.

Tickets are available for all matches at both Queen's Park Oval and Brian Lara Cricket Academy. Fans can purchase a 10-match package at a discounted rate of US\$20/TT\$150, while individual day tickets are priced at TT\$20/US\$3. Semi-final tickets cost US\$8/TT\$50, with final tickets at US\$15/TT\$100.



League champions Sandals remain on course to capture the double in the 2024 Business Basketball Championship. (File photo)

Semi-finalists confirmed in Business Basketball League Playoff Championship

The semi-finalists have been decided in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business Basketball League Playoff Championship.

Three of the four top seeds advanced to the semi-finals following the completion of the first-round knockout matches at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

Second seed Anjo Wholesale and fifth-seed Antigua Power Company claimed the last two semi-final spots.

Antigua Wholesale, which clinched the runners-up spot in the round-robin first stage of the business league, ousted defending champions and seventh-seed Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board 65-60 in their first-round playoff encounter.

Steven Matthew sank 27 points, and Jaheem James scored 12 points for Anjo Wholesale. Marlon Charles converted 14 points, Devorn Benjamin scored 13 points, and Russell

Daley had 11 points for the Transport Board.

The fifth-seeded Antigua Power Company created the only upset in the first round of the playoffs, pulling off a 59-48 victory against the fourth-seeded H. Wright Promotions.

Tristan Jacobs produced 14 points, and Ezekiel Francois scored 10 points for the Antigua Power Company. Donte Trimingham converted 14 points, and Devonte Daley sank 13 points for H. Wright Promotions.

Twenty-four hours earlier, league champions and top seed Sandals and third-seed Richie's Shooterz claimed the other two semi-final berths.

Sandals cruised to a 64-47 victory against eighth-seed Eye Mobile Vision Care.

Keroi Lee produced 16 points, 10 rebounds, six assists, and five steals; T-Shawn Lewis had 15 points, 10 assists, six rebounds, and five steals; and Selassie Braithwaite got 12 points

and five assists for Sandals. Tehran Zechariah had 16 points and five rebounds for Eye Mobile Vision Care.

Richie's Shooterz advanced to the semi-finals by prevailing 68-59 against the Board of Education.

Cohen Desouza shot a game-high 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Darryl Goodwin had 11 points and four assists for Richie's Shooters.

David Hernandez sank 16 points; Xavier Meade produced 12 points, nine rebounds, and four assists; Warren Bogle had 12 points; and Zuri Nesbitt scored 10 for the Board of Education.

The best of three playoff semi-finals will commence with a double header at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday (today).

Second seed Anjo Wholesale will face third-seed Richie's Shooterz at 7 pm, and top-seed Sandals will face fifth-seed Antigua Power Company at 8 pm.

Antiguan men retain ECVA title

Defending champions and hosts Antigua and Barbuda capped an impressive display in which they won every match to retain the 2024 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Men's Championships on Sunday night.

Antigua and Barbuda surged to back-to-back titles by beating Dominica 3-1 in the final at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Antigua and Barbuda got off to a good start in the final by taking the opening set 25-18. Dominica, who entered the final with an identical unbeaten record as the Antiguan, hit back to level the match at 1-1 by winning the second set 25-17.

But the Antiguan men staged a resurgence to claim the next two sets, 25-18 and 25-15, to win the final and retain their title as the Dominicans suffered their first loss in the 10-team tournament.

The win was more than gold for Antigua and Barbuda's men, as they also earned the right to represent the ECVA at the next Continental Championships.

Playing unbeaten to win six matches, Antigua and Barbuda's head coach Karl Williams dedicated the title to the "people of Antigua and Barbuda."

Williams disclosed that the mission to retain the ECVA's senior men's championship started three months ago.

"This started in August; we had our travails, but we stuck it out, and here we are celebrating tonight," Williams said.

Captain Adrian Constant also commended the efforts of team Antigua and Barbuda.



The Antigua and Barbuda team celebrate with their trophies after retaining the ECVA Men's Championship at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday, October 27, 2024. (ABAVA)

"It was a lot getting here; we had a lot of things to deal with, and as a group, we stuck it out; we stayed together. We lost players on the way, but we did it again; that is retaining the title," Constant said.

Although losing when it mattered most, Dominica's head coach, Brian Gavlas, praised the effort of his players.

"This team is a great bunch of guys. They evolved throughout the tournament to the end. I am proud of them, and we were prepared to give a good show, but some situations happened and prevented us from doing it," Galvas said.

Former ECVA perennial champions St. Lucia claimed third place. The St. Lucians dug deep to prevail 3-2 against Grenada in a keenly contested playoff for third place.

The St. Lucians came from behind

to overcome the Grenadians 23-25, 25-23, 25-22, 15-25, and 15-8.

St. Lucia's head coach, Havern Brown, expressed his contentment with securing third place.

"As I said from the start, we had a lot of young guys, so for them to get a bronze, I am satisfied," Brown stated.

He, however, accepted that there is a lot to be done for St. Lucia to once again reign as the powerhouse in the ECVA region.

Grenada's head coach, Peer Nassier, said his team faltered in the end to finish in fourth place with a record of three wins and three losses in their six matches.

"We tried very hard throughout the tournament, but it was the consistency that faltered us a little bit, but we continued to improve."