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Police intensify search for 9-year old Chantel Crump

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Governor General's Deputy Sir Clare Roberts, Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph and St Paul MP E.P Chet Greene are joined by senior officials of the Ministry of Health in the ribbon cutting exercise for the renovated Liberts Clinic on Thursday

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Police intensify search for 9-year old Chantel Crump



Two people are in police custody and a vehicle seized as the police ramp up the investigation into the search for 9-year old Chantel Crump of the Grays-Green Community, who was abducted on Wednesday. At a press briefing on Thursday held by Acting Commissioner, Everton Jeffers with Assistant Commissioners, Clifton Cabral and Samuel Joseph, it was revealed that around 4:00 pm on Wednesday, Chantel was walking towards her home on #2 George Street, Greenbay, with



two friends when a silver vehicle pulled up and a lone female inside the invited her to enter the vehicle,

which she did. The last sighting was of Chantel waving goodbye to her friends from inside the vehi-

cle as it drove away. The police estimate that Chantel was a mere 75 to 100 feet
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con't from pg 2

away from her home when the silver vehicle with the lone female stopped, opened the door and invited her in before driving off.

The minor's family indicated to the police that they do not know this individual who it is reported lured Chantel into the vehicle. It was not known whether or not the person was someone known to the child. Both parents of the child, Ernest and Marsha Crump took to the media to launch an emotional appeal to anyone who may be holding the child to return her to them as soon as possible. There have also been flyers of the missing child posted throughout the community as the police and members of the community launched an island-wide search for Chantel. No area of the island was omitted; from Pares in the east, to Fort James, Sea View Farm, Friar's Hill Road are among the areas searched.

According to the police there has been a flurry of information reaching the department which has helped them to identify both the vehicle and its owner as well as the person believed to have been the one who lured the minor into the vehicle and drove away.

By late afternoon Thursday, the police reported that they have taken into custody the owner of the vehicle, his girlfriend and the vehicle believed to have been used in the crime, now being treated as an abduction. However, despite all this, Chantel has not yet been located and the search continues. In the press briefing, the police indicated that additional equipment would help them in their work, but emphasized that there is no equipment better than human sources as they repeated the call for assistance from members of the public to locate the child.

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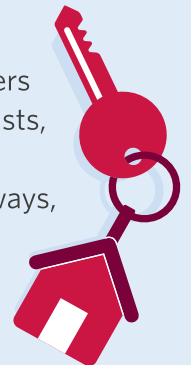


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MINISTER OF EDUCATION EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CHANTAL CRUMP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 13, 2025,
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. As Minister of Education, I am deeply troubled by the disappearance of Chantal Crump, a young student who was allegedly last seen walking home from school in the Grays Farm area. This distressing situation weighs heavily on our hearts, and our thoughts are with her family, friends, and school community during this difficult time.

I urge anyone who may have seen or heard anything - no matter how insignificant it may seem - to come forward and share this information with the authorities. Even the smallest detail could prove crucial in bringing Chantal home safely.

As a nation, we must stand together in times like these. Let us all be our brother's keeper - looking out for one another and ensuring that our children feel safe in their communities. I implore the public to remain vigilant and cooperative with law enforcement in their ongoing efforts.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the police immediately. Let us work together to find Chantal and bring peace of mind to her loved ones.

END



Statement from the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda



The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda acknowledges a lawsuit filed in a United States Federal Court in Puerto Rico regarding the purchase amount of the Alfa Nero yacht. It also notes an article published on the Associated Press online news portal referencing this lawsuit.

The article, which heavily cites opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) officials, alleges that the lawsuit aims to investigate whether any undisclosed dealings for personal gain occurred.

The Cabinet strongly condemns this politically motivated attempt to malign the Prime Minister and his family. The lawsuit, along with the article, falsely implicates Prime Minister Gaston Browne, his wife, his son, the Accountant General, and the Port Manager.

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda is aware of affidavits and evidentiary exhibits filed in the High Court of Justice by Ministry of Finance officials as proof of expenditure from the sale of the Alfa Nero. The documents confirm that the proceeds from the Alfa Nero's sale—amounting to US\$40

million—were allocated to cover expenses related to the yacht's maintenance, services, and supplies and payments of the commission to the agency that facilitated the sale of the super yacht. Additionally, approximately US\$29 million of the pro-

ceeds were used to address critical fiscal obligations of the Government, including payments to domestic and external creditors such as:


1. Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
2. Caribbean Development Bank
3. Software One Inc.
4. Judgment debts and land compensation awards

The Cabinet unequivocally states that neither the Prime Minister nor any member of his family or any public official benefited from the sale of the Alfa Nero superyacht.

The Cabinet notes that the Hon. Prime Minister

has sought legal advice on whether the publication constitute a grave defamatory attack on his reputation. In addition, the government of Antigua and Barbuda is involved in several litigations on the matter in the High Court and the Court of Appeal on the sale of the Alfa Nero with judgements expected at any time.

This lawsuit and the Associated Press article represent yet another politically driven effort by the opposition UPP and its affiliates to tarnish the reputation of the Honorable Prime Minister and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.




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Police await post mortem results on decomposing body found at Swetes

The police have not yet made any public announcements on the identity of a decomposing body found in Swetes earlier this week.

Acting Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers told a press briefing on Thursday that the body was that of a male, but he declined to provide any further information noting that an x-ray had been



done on the body and that a post mortem was conducted on Thursday. However, until the police have the results, he chose not to say

anything further at this time.

The Acting Commissioner would not speculate on whether foul play was suspected in the death or whether the body was that of a young or an old man.

The results of the post mortem are expected to be made available sometime after they are presented to the police.

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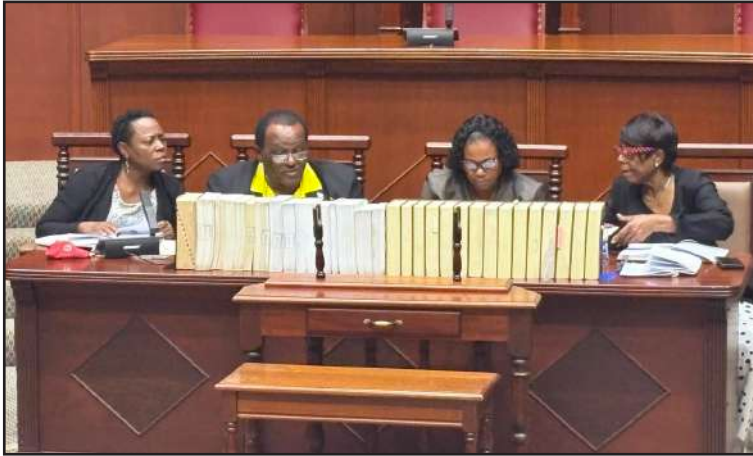
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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Parliamentary Committee convenes consultation of proposed legislations



The Parliamentary Select Committee that is reviewing three proposed legislations now before parliament convened its first meeting in the Parliament Chambers on Thursday.

Chaired by the Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, the meeting was called to get input from stakeholders into the proposed Police Bill, 2025, the Fire and Rescue Service Bill, 2025 and the Antigua and Barbuda Forensic Services Bill, 2025.

Attendance not only included members of the select

committee, but from representatives of the police, the fire department, the director of Forensic Services, staff from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Attorney General's Chambers and members of the public, including at least one senior former police officer.

Sir Steadroy described the session as generating 'very detailed discussions' on the first bill that was considered, the Police Bill, 2025. "There were very helpful contributions from the police, the representatives from the DPP's

Office, the Director of Forensic Services and even from former senior officer, Joseph Hughes. I was also particularly pleased with the input from select committee members including the Representative for St. John's Rural West, Richard Lewis and from the member for All Saints West, Anthony Smith Jnr.," Sir Steadroy reported.

He further described the discussions as rewarding as all parties were keen on having a legislation that is adequate to serve a police department for the 21st Century.

He said the committee will reconvene in two weeks to continue the discussions on the other two legislations. Sir Steadroy said the experience has reaffirmed his faith in the work of select committees to review specific legislations.

"Former Speaker, Sir Gerald Watt, was constantly promoting the benefits of select committees and I must say that following Thursday's exercise, I am of the view that this is a tool that I will employ much more in the future to consider specific legislations," he remarked.

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Liberta Clinic formally re-opened for service to the community



Following its closure for renovations for just under a year, the Liberta Health Clinic was formally re-opened to provide health care services to the community on Thursday.

In a ceremony populated by officials of the ministry of health, the parliamentary representative, teachers and students of neighbouring schools and members of the community, there was widespread joy and gratitude that the health clinic is now available to provide critical health-care

for the people of Liberta and surrounding communities.

There was further elation when it was announced that the new clinic in Cobbs Cross will be opened in about another eight weeks, thus adding another achievement for area MP, E.P Chet Greene.

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph noted that the reopening of the clinic is more than just a renovation of a building as it is a reaffirmation of the government's commitment

to improving healthcare infrastructure across the country.

“We understand that for too long, many of our clinics have faced challenges, including outdated facilities, staffing shortages, and limited resources. But we are taking decisive action to change that. The improvements made to the Liberta Clinic reflect our ongoing efforts to strengthen primary healthcare services. This clinic will offer:

- General medical consultations, ensuring that residents have access

to routine check-ups and treatments.

- Maternal and child healthcare services, ensuring that mothers and babies receive the best possible start to life.
- Chronic disease management, providing ongoing support for those living with conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.
- Immunization programs, which are crucial for the protection of both children and adults, and
- Emergency medical assistance, ensuring that timely care is available



when it is needed most. In his remarks, MP Greene disclosed that he had become dissatisfied with the state of the clinic prior to the closure and had made repeated appeals to his

ministerial and Cabinet colleagues to take action to improve the physical and other conditions at the clinic. At one point, he revealed that he took the Health Minister on a tour

of the clinic for him to see the conditions firsthand. It was following this that it was agreed that the renovations will take place as a matter of priority.

During the period of its closure, nurses attached to the clinic took the initiative to visit patients in their homes to deliver health care services, while the MP acquired a vehicle that was used to transport the elderly to access health-care. Additionally, the St. Paul Community Centre

was made available for the vaccination programme for infants as well as for other health care services.

During the ceremony, MP Greene singled out two nurses for special recognition for the outstanding work that they have provided to the community over several years. They are retired Nurses' Aide, Annel Weaver and Nurse Joyann Quinn.

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Antigua and Barbuda leads charge in providing access to eye health for women and girls globally

As delegates from around the globe gathered at the United Nations this week for the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) conference, Antigua and Barbuda is using the occasion to galvanize support and build momentum for improving eye health among female populations worldwide.

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson is co-chair of the Friends of Vision Group, which was established in 2018, to advance eye health as a crucial development and human rights issue. As the international community marks World Glaucoma Week and on the margins of CSW, Friends of Vision hosted a major event themed **"No Woman Left Behind – Advancing Eye Health Equity for Women and Girls."**

Women face significant barriers in accessing eye care, making it difficult for them to secure educational opportunities or employment and achieve their own financial independence. The event paid special attention to the global efforts to eliminate Trachoma, an infectious disease that causes blindness and disproportionately affects woman and girls globally.

"Countries must prioritize the inclusion of gender-responsive eye health services and invest in policies that ensure women and girls can access these services



regardless of where they live. This is not just about health—it is about empowering women to participate fully in life," Ambassador Webson stressed.

In view of these challeng-

es, Ambassador Webson is encouraged by the possibilities of the 2026 Global Summit on Eye Health in mobilizing resources to address the disparities in providing eye health ser-

vices to all, regardless of gender.

"We must harness the collective political will to prioritize vision within global development financing mechanisms, strengthen national health systems, and hold ourselves accountable through measurable targets and data," Ambassador Webson told the meeting.

Also in attendance at the session was Her Royal Highness Sophie, the Duchess of Edinburgh, who is the Global Ambassador for the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Both Ambassador and the Duchess of Edinburgh exchanged ideas on their shared concerns about access to eye health and discussed the way forward ahead of next year's Global Summit.

Following the side event, Ambassador Webson, who co-chairs Friends of Vision along with Ireland and Bangladesh, led discussions at the organisation's first meeting of the year where a number of major matters that align with the UN's overall vision on providing eye health for all were ventilated.

Joining Ambassador Webson at the meeting were the Antigua and Barbuda delegation to CSW, headed by President of the Senate, Alincia Williams Grant, and First Secretaries at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission to the United Nations Claxton Duberry and Asha Challenger.

The NPA shows appreciation for Stone Masons working at Blockhouse



The Officer's Quarters at the Blockhouse Military Complex are currently undergoing a stabilization process to address damage sustained over the years. The National Parks Authority has engaged eight skilled stonemasons who have been diligently restoring the structure. Built over 200 years ago, using volcanic stone sourced from the surrounding area, the complex has been carefully restored since beginning in 2024. To date, the stonemasons led by veterans, Orell Charles, Victor Isaac and Sean Titus- have successfully reinstated two of the recently damaged arches, showcasing their meticulous craftsmanship.

As the project progresses, the National Parks Authority held a special appreciation event for the stonemasons as part of the 8th of March Project 2025 commemoration. The event was attended by, the Minister Responsible for National Parks, E.P. Chet Greene, Chairman of the National Parks Authority

Board, Sen. Phillip Shoul, Parks Commissioner, Ann Marie Martin, Restorations Manager, Marinus Smith and management and staff of the National Parks Authority.

In his remarks, Minister Greene expressed great pride in the stonemasons' work, stating, "Gentlemen, this is a proud moment. As word spreads of your efforts here, your names will be celebrated as the eight men who died on March 8, 1744. This project aligns perfectly with our recent passage of the Cultural Heritage Bill and our vision to develop more heritage tourism spaces in Antigua and Barbuda."

The Minister continued, "We are not only showcasing the value of these sites as tourism assets but also honouring us as Antiguan and Barbudans—descendants of the very individuals who built these structures. When these buildings were first erected, we were strangers to them- today, we are their rightful stewards, heirs to the legacy of those who constructed

them."

Sir Hugh Bailey KGN MBE GCN, a benefactor of the Stabilization Project, was also present to show his support and offer his personal connections to the space as a young man growing up in St Paul's. He shared that seeing the Stabilisation efforts he was beaming with national pride.

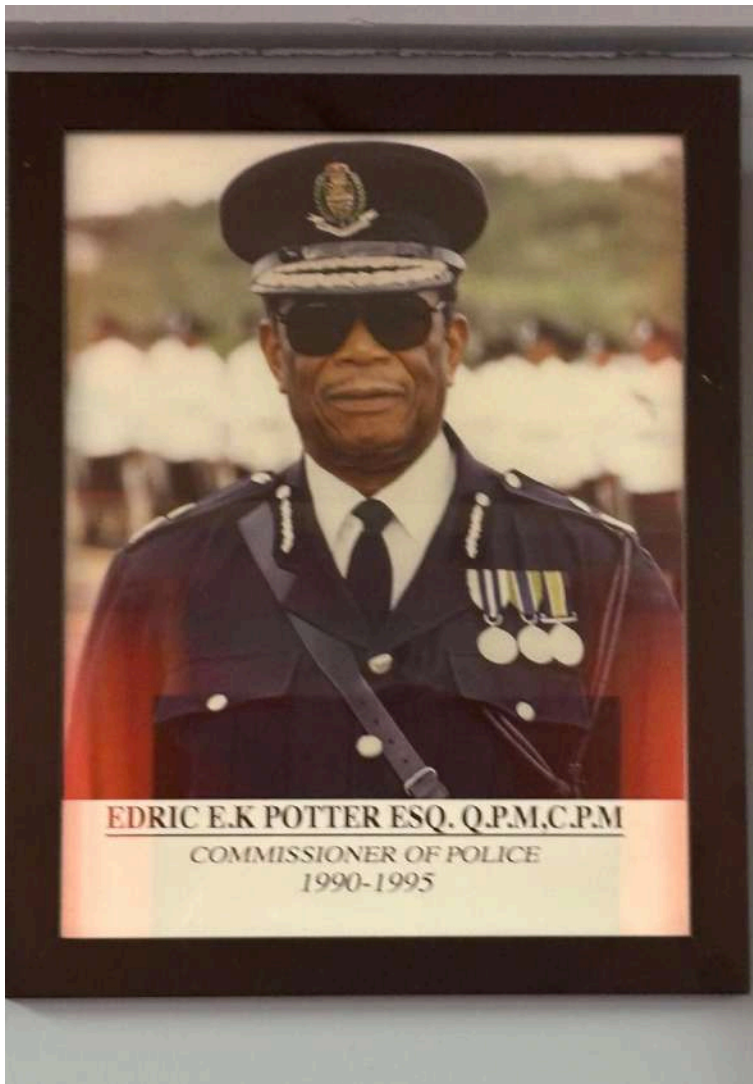
Chairman Shoul expressed his admiration for the ongoing work, saying, "I invite the people of Antigua and Barbuda to come and witness the remarkable talent being displayed here. This project has my unwavering support, and I hope to extend our efforts to more ruins within the National Park."

The presentation took place on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at the Blockhouse Military Complex. It marked the beginning of the National Parks' annual commemoration of the tragic events of March 8, 1744, when an explosion claimed the lives of eight men: Billy, London, James Soe,

Caramante Quamano, Dick, Joe, Scipio, and Johnno. The theme for 2025, "Built on Legacy," highlights the remarkable skills, talents, and contributions of both free and enslaved Africans who lived and worked in the Dockyard. Their legacy endures 300 years later, as the Antigua Naval Dockyard has evolved into a thriving heritage tourism site that continues to support the livelihoods of their descendants.

The National Parks Authority is also celebrating 40 years of dedicated service, proudly fulfilling its mandate through initiatives like this one. For four decades, the Authority has worked tirelessly to preserve, protect, manage, and develop the natural, physical, and ecological resources, alongside the historical, architectural, and cultural heritage of Antigua and Barbuda. This milestone is a testament to the Authority's unwavering commitment to safeguarding and enriching our nation's heritage for future generations.

Former Commissioner of Police Edric Potters has passed



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and the nation of Antigua and Barbuda are mourning the passing of former Police Commissioner, Edric Potter, who died at his home on Thursday.

Commissioner Potter served the force in many capacities prior to his appointment as COP in 1990. He was at one time head of

the Criminal Investigation Department of the Police.

His tenure as COP lasted until his retirement in 1995.

Acting Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers has extended condolences to the family of the former commissioner, and indicated that he will be in touch to discuss arrangements for his ‘final rest’.

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sleep in plight,
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To nourish all
and not digress.



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minds our greatest wealth,
Access to doctors,
care, and health.
Vaccines, fresh air,
and exercise,
A world where
every person thrives.



Goal Four: Education for All

From books to dreams,
 from school to sky,
 Every child should learn and fly.
 With lessons bright
 and knowledge free,
 We shape the world with literacy.



Goal Five: Gender Equality

No voice too soft, no role too small,
 We break the chains, we rise for all.
 Women and men, both strong and free,
 With equal chance and dignity.



Goal Six: Water Clean and Pure

Fresh water flows a gift, a right,
 No child should thirst,
 no town should fight.
 Protect the rivers, keep them clear,
 For all to drink, both far and near.



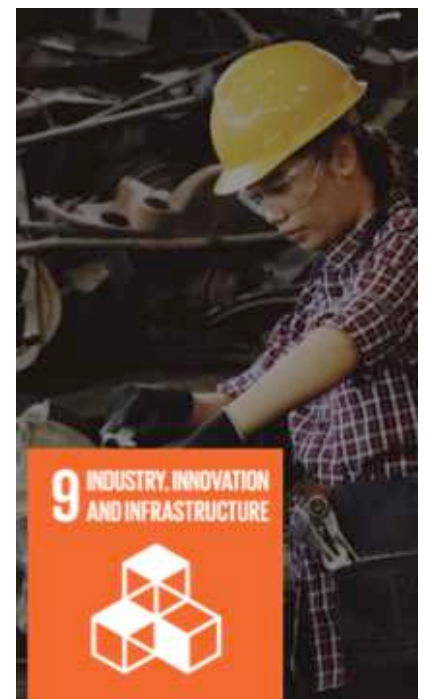
Goal Seven: Green Energy Grows

Let sunlight shine, let breezes spin,
 A future bright must now begin.
 With solar, wind, and power wise,
 We'll fuel the world with bluer skies.



Goal Eight: Decent Work for You and Me

Fair wages, safety, jobs that last,
 A future built both strong and fast.
 Where all can work with joy and pride,
 And lift the world from side to side.



Goal Nine: Innovation's Might

We build, we code, invent, create,
 With science bright, we innovate.
 Strong bridges, roads,
 and tech so smart,
 A future formed by brain and heart.

Antigua Barbuda Sports Administration Recognition 2024



Ileathea Cabral has been a driving force behind the success of the Antigua & Barbuda Fencing Federation over the past 12 months. Her dedication as a key member of all committees has been essential in successfully executing Federation activities. Ms. Cabral's effective communication with the executive board, athletes, the Ministry of Sports, and the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee has fostered unity and collaboration. Her hands-on approach to organizing events and managing logistics has ensured seamless operations. Her unwavering commitment has propelled the Federation forward, making her a deserving nominee for the Administrator of the Year 2024 award.



Lisa Abraham has made significant contributions to drag racing in Antigua and Barbuda over the past three decades, excelling both as a driver and administrator. Known as "LisaLis," her journey began on local streets and continued at the North Sound International Raceway. As a leader, Lisa has transformed the landscape of drag racing and represented Antigua internationally de l'Automobile (FIA). Her vision and efforts have advanced motorsports and the country's tourism industry. Her work as president and dedication to the sport highlight her as an exemplary candidate for the Administrator Achievement in Drag Racing.



Kem Warner has been an exceptional administrator in 2024, demonstrating unwavering dedication to swimming in Antigua and Barbuda. As a strong advocate for governance, he has led the revision and implementation of rules and protocols within the ABSF Executive. His leadership in athlete selection ensures fairness and transparency. Behind the scenes at Nationals and Club Invitationals, Kem oversees facility setup, security, and event arrangements, often using his personal resources. His tireless efforts in fundraising and team management have been instrumental in the success of the OECS Swimming Championships, where his guidance helped secure three consecutive victories.

Antigua Barbuda Sports Administration Recognition 2024



Inga Francis has been a valuable member of the Potters Steelers Basketball Club, serving as Team Manager and helping the team secure third place in the 2024 ABBA Division One season and a spot in the playoff semifinals. As Treasurer of ABBA, she ensures the smooth execution of competitions, camps, and events. Her financial acumen enabled partnerships with international groups like Lucentum Basketball HUB, creating opportunities for players, officials, and coaches. In 2024, she also managed the ABBA Cool & Smooth Business League All-Star team, leading them to victory in Dominica. Francis exemplifies dedication and leadership in basketball administration.

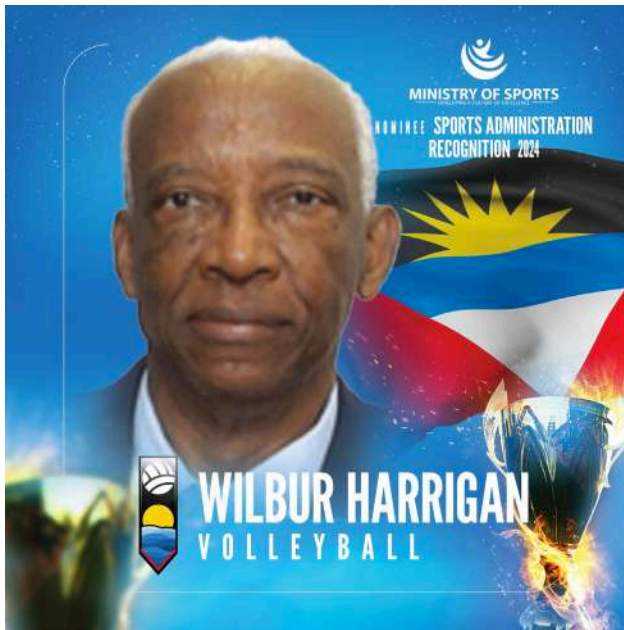


Beverly Percival Tonge has dedicated over 22 years to bodybuilding, health, and fitness in Antigua and Barbuda. A former Sportswoman of the Year in Bodybuilding (2006), she has been a steadfast supporter of the ABABWF, playing a key role in administration, fundraising, and athlete mentorship. Her meticulous organizational skills and proactive approach ensure smooth operations, effective communication, and the successful execution of Federation events. Beverly's passion for the sport and commitment to its growth have left a lasting impact, inspired athletes and fostered community. Her tireless dedication makes her a deserving nominee for the Administrator of the Year award.



Kelesha Antoine is the epitome of professionalism and leadership both on and off the field. As the head of the Referee Department, she has created valuable training and development opportunities for local referees, fostering the growth of new talent and developing top-tier instructors. Her efforts have led to increased representation of Antigua and Barbuda in international tournaments. Respected for her innovation and decisiveness, Kelesha is a key figure in global refereeing decision-making bodies. Her commitment to excellence and positive impact on those around her have made her an invaluable asset to the ABFA, ensuring continued growth and success for years to come.

Antigua Barbuda Sports Administration Recognition 2024



Wilbur Harrigan has played a pivotal role in advancing volleyball in Antigua and Barbuda. His efforts include securing an international FIVB coach for six months to enhance the national training programs. With a passion for sports development, Mr. Harrigan has contributed significantly to local and regional volleyball management, ensuring the sport continues to grow at all levels. He has also been involved in various leadership roles across different sporting organizations. Mr. Harrigan's vision and dedication to improving facilities, nurturing talent, and promoting international participation have made him a highly respected figure in the sports community locally.

Dane Gustave has transformed the cricket administration in Antigua and Barbuda through his leadership and innovation. He led the development of the ABCA Scoring App, a digital platform that modernized cricket scoring, ensuring real-time accuracy and accessibility for players and spectators alike. Beyond technology, he has introduced training programs to empower grassroots scorers, fostering inclusivity and excellence in record-keeping. His initiatives have enhanced engagement, operational efficiency, and the preservation of local cricket's legacy. Balancing tradition with innovation, Mr. Gustave's impactful contributions have set new standards in cricket administration, making him a standout candidate for the Administrator of the Year award.

Matthew Bailey Vice President of the Antigua and Barbuda Chess Federation (ABCF), played a pivotal role in 2024, marking a historic year for chess in the nation. As captain of the Antigua and Barbuda team at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary, he led the team to an outstanding achievement: two players earned the prestigious Candidate Master (CM) title for the first time in the Federation's history. Bailey's contributions extended beyond competitive play. His leadership of the Chess in Schools Program and dedication to increasing female participation through the Girls in Chess Program helped solidify 2024 as a transformative year for chess in Antigua and Barbuda.



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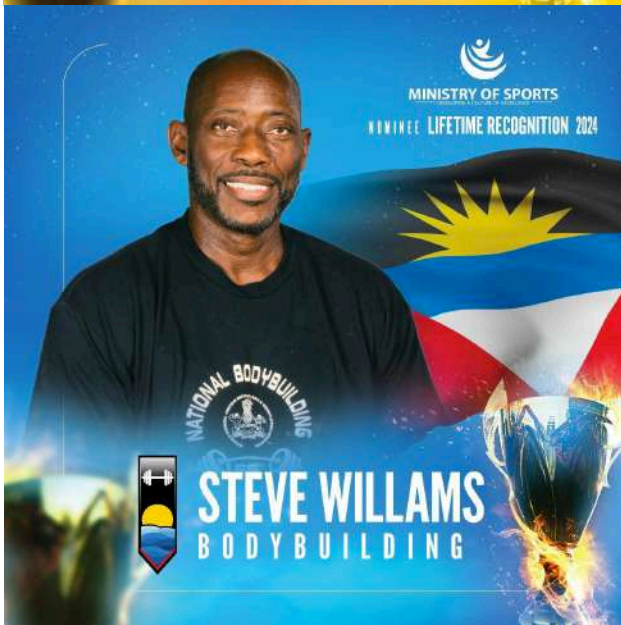
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Antigua Barbuda Lifetime Achievement Award 2024



Charles Fabian has had a remarkable cycling career spanning over four decades, beginning in 1983. Representing Antigua and Barbuda in Mountain Bike, Track, and Road disciplines, Fabian competed at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, cementing his place among the nation's Olympians. He has achieved regional success, including top-five finishes at the John T Memorial race in Anguilla, multiple OECS Championships victories, and podium placements at the Caribbean Cycling Championships. Off the track, Fabian is a certified Level 2 coach and has served as Team Manager, Coach, and Mechanic. His dedication to mentoring young cyclists ensures his enduring legacy in the sport.



Steve Williams is a well-known figure in Antigua and Barbuda's health and fitness community, with over 40 years of experience in bodybuilding. He is a former National Junior and Senior Champion, Eastern Caribbean Overall Champion, and National Sportsman of the Year. Steve's passion for fitness extends to mentoring young athletes and promoting health in schools. He served as the President of ABA-BWF and Athletes Coordinator. In June 2023, Steve earned his IFBB Elite Pro Card, claiming first place in the Master Bodybuilding Open and second in the Men's 90kg category at the Roger Boyce Classic in Barbados.

Victor Parker is a pioneer in Draughts in Antigua and Barbuda, known for his immense contributions to the sport's growth and popularity. His iconic 'Park House Bar,' located on Christian Street, Grays Farm, has become a legendary hub where Draughts players of all levels go to develop their skills and strategies. Many talented players have been inspired by Mr. Parker's passion and dedication, using the venue as a space to refine their craft and engage in meaningful competition. His commitment has cemented the 'Park House Bar' as an institution for fostering the art and tradition of Draughts locally.



Architectural Digest names Dominica among the '21 Most Beautiful Places in the World'



Dominica has made the list of the '21 Most Beautiful Place in the World' compiled by the international magazine, Architectural Digest.

In its latest edition, published on March 10, 2025, the magazine painted the list as an “ode to earth’s biggest blockbusters” when it comes to beauty.

“Among the most beautiful places in the world, you will find black-sand beaches and blue ice caves, granite peaks and glacial ice, the City of Light and a city carved in stone,” it said in an editorial introducing the 21 places.

“They include both Mother Nature’s handiwork as well as beauty crafted by human hands.

Dominica, the only Caribbean island on the list, was placed ninth for its “unspoiled charm” and was described as “an under-the-radar paradise.”

‘The Caribbean has no shortage

of alluring islands, but one stands apart for its unspoiled charm — Dominica, a.k.a. the Nature Island,” the magazine wrote.

“Unlike other tropical locales, the beaches here aren’t overwhelmed by mega resorts and cruise ships. Instead, you’ll find pristine black-and white-sand beaches, tranquil rainforest hikes, and snorkeling adventures in magically bubbling waters. Yes, it’s still possible to uncover an under-the-radar paradise today.”

Top of the list is the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

“It’s hard to top the jaw-dropping natural drama of waterfalls, and Victoria Falls in southern Africa is one of the planet’s most stunning examples,” the magazine wrote about the falls.

“Located on the Zambezi River, which forms the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, Victoria Falls is considered the largest

sheet of falling water in the world, based on both its width (5,604 feet) and height (354 feet). In pre-colonial times it was known as Mosi-oa-Tunya, or “the smoke that thunders.”

The 21 most beautiful places in the world according to Architectural Digest are as follows:

Victoria Falls

Paris (France)

Amazon Rainforest (South America)

Lapland (Finland)

Torres del Paine National Park (Chile)

Arashiyama Bamboo Grove (Japan)

Banff National Park (Canada)

The Alhambra (Spain)

Dominica

Vatnajökull National Park (Iceland)

Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

Petra (Jordan)

Sea of Cortez (Mexico)

Shetland Islands (Scotland)

Jaipur (India)

Grindelwald (Switzerland)

Zhangjiajie National Forest (China)

Machu Picchu (Peru)

Serengeti National Park (Tanzania)

Grand Canyon (USA)

Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

(Dominica News Online)

PM Mottley prepared to have US visa revoked over Cuban health programme in the Caribbean

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley says she is prepared to have her United States visa revoked as she urged CARICOM countries to ensure that they are able to explain “what the Cubans have been able to do for us” as they seek to defend the Cuban health brigade programme.

“This matter, with the Cubans and the nurses, should tell us everything that we need to know. Barbados does not currently have Cuban medical staff or Cuban nurses, but I will be the first to go to the line and to tell you that we could not get through the (COVID-19) pandemic without the Cuban nurses and the Cuban doctors,” Mottley said in a statement in Parliament.

The United States has raised questions about the programme that CARICOM countries have insisted has benefited the region significantly.

United States Secretary of State, Marco Rubio announced recently that Washington would be expanding an existing Cuba-related visa restriction policy that targets forced labour linked to the Cuban labour export programme.

“This expanded policy

applies to current or former Cuban government officials, and other individuals, including foreign govern-



ment officials, who are believed to be responsible for, or involved in, the Cuban labour export programme, particularly Cuba’s overseas medical missions,” Rubio said.

Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants who left Cuba in pursuit of the American dream, said in the statement posted on the US Department of State’s website, that the new policy also applies to the immediate family of those people supporting the Cuban programme.

“The department has already taken steps to impose visa restrictions on several

individuals, including Venezuelans, under this expanded policy,” he added.

The Antigua and Barbuda,

St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago prime ministers have publicly expressed their support for the Cuban programme, while Grenada’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Joseph Andall, said St George’s not only has a “legal, moral and ethical obligation to stand by the people of Cuba but that it should avoid being opportunistic or transactional as it pertains to the relations between the two countries”.

Mottley, the latest CARICOM leader to address the issue, said that she would be the first to inform the world that Cuban health professionals have been

paid “the same thing that we pay Bajans (Barbadians), and that the notion, as was peddled not just by this government in the US, but the previous government, that we were involved in human trafficking by engaging with the Cuban nurses was fully repudiated and rejected by us.

“Now, I don’t believe that we have to shout across the seas, but I am prepared, like others in this region, that if we cannot reach a sensible agreement on this matter, then if the cost of it is the loss of my visa, to the US, then so be it.

“But what matters to us is principles. And I have said over and over that principles only mean something when it is inconvenient to stand by it. Now we don’t have to shout, but we can be resolute.”

Mottley, the Caribbean’s only female head of government, said she is looking forward “to standing with my CARICOM brothers... to be able to ensure that we explain that what the Cubans have been able to do for us, far from approximating itself to human trafficking, has been to save lives and limbs and sight for many a Caribbean person”.
(Jamaica Gleaner)



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T&T nationals now need a visa for the UK



The British High Commission at St Clair Avenue, St Clair, Port of Spain.

In stunning development, Trinidad and Tobago nationals will no longer be able to travel to the United Kingdom without a visa.

Effective immediately, nationals will have to apply and pay for visas if they wish to travel to the UK, even if this is just in transit to another destination.

Nationals will need a Direct Airside Transit Visa if transiting via the UK.

However, those with an existing electronic travel authorisation and who already have a confirmed travel booking can still enter visa-free until April 23, 2025.

In a statement from the British High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago explaining why nationals will no longer be eligible to travel under the electronic travel authorisation (ETA) scheme, as was done previously, British High Commissioner to T&T Jon Dean cited the problem

of misuse of the British immigration system by asylum seekers from this country and the “unjustified” surge in asylum claims.

“Security, including border security, has to be our priority...There has been a significant increase in the number of unjustified asylum applications by Trinidad and Tobago nationals at the UK border.

“Unfortunately, the actions of a small minority have meant that our ministers have had to take the difficult decision to introduce a visa requirement.

“There will be a short transition period until 23rd of April, 2025, for visitors who already have confirmed travel booking and an electronic travel authorisation,” he said.

“I understand that many of you will find this news disappointing and that is why I wanted to explain it to you personally....We want you to continue to travel to the UK as

much as Brits do to Trinidad and Tobago to discover the best of both countries,” Dean concluded in a video made public.

Previously Trinidad and Tobago nationals only required the ETA, which was introduced in January 2025 for all visa-exempt nations.

Dean said the current changes align Trinidad and Tobago with many other countries requiring visas with which the UK shares close and friendly ties. “We understand that travel is important for families, businesses and cultural connections.

“The introduction of visitor visas is designed to support safe and secure travel while ensuring the UK’s borders remain protected...We remain committed to welcoming visitors and look forward to continuing the strong ties between our people.

“As a valued Commonwealth partner, Trinidad and Tobago remains an important part of the UK’s global community,” he said.

The UK government had previously introduced a visa requirement for T&T at the end of 2008 when there were concerns over illegal immigration, crime and passport fraud, and it was thought that the Trinidad and Tobago passport was too easy to duplicate.

After the introduction of the machine-readable passports, the visa requirement was removed.

With the imposition of the new visa requirement, it means T&T is one of three Commonwealth countries whose nationals require visas to enter the UK. The other two countries are Jamaica and Dominica. (*Trinidad Express*)



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Families of Duterte's drug war victims grieve, seek justice in Philippines

It has been almost eight years since brothers Crisanto and Juan Carlos disappeared one morning in Quezon City, a sprawling northern district of Metro Manila.

Within a day, their lifeless bodies were discovered riddled with bullets. But the pain of their brutal killing has continued to haunt their mother, Llore Pasco, over all these years.

On that morning in May 2017, Crisanto, a 34-year-old father of four, had left home early to pick up a licence to work as a private security guard. Not long after, Juan Carlos, 31, a part-time utility bill collector, would follow his brother out of their home.

They would never come back.

The day after their disappearance, their mother told Al Jazeera how she and other relatives were shocked to learn from a television news report that her two sons had been killed, accused by police of robbery. It took a full week and a hefty \$1,500 fee for Pasco to recover their bodies from the morgue.

Their funerals were followed by years of agony as Pasco lived without hope for justice ever being done.

So on hearing the news this week of the arrest of the country's former President Rodrigo Duterte over his brutal war on drugs, she was overcome with emo-



tion.

"I felt so nervous and scared, but also excited," said Pasco, a part-time food vendor and massage therapist.

"My eyes were filled with tears. At long last, after so many years of waiting, it's happening. This is it," she told Al Jazeera.

The International Criminal Court (ICC), which issued the arrest warrant for Duterte, was her one last hope for justice, said Pasco, a leading member of Rise Up for Life and for Rights, a group

of mothers and wives of those killed in the country's drug war.

Pasco told how she had "little to no hope" of finding justice for the killing of her sons in the Philippines.

On Tuesday, the international police organisation (Interpol) served the ICC's warrant against Duterte at Manila airport, on charges of "crimes against humanity" related to thousands of killings of suspected drug users and dealers during his time in power.

Later the same day, the gov-

ernment of the Philippines allowed Duterte to be flown to The Hague-based international court.

According to police records, more than 7,000 people were killed in official antidrug operations ordered by Duterte while he was in office from 2016 to 2022.

Human rights groups say the actual number of killings could be closer to 30,000, including those who were killed by gunmen, some of whom later turned out to be undercover police officers.

Duterte arrived in the Netherlands on Wednesday afternoon, where he was officially handed over to the ICC's jurisdiction.

Amid criticism and protest from Duterte's supporters, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said the surprise arrest was in compliance with his country's "commitments to Interpol".
(Al Jazeera English)

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Canada hits U.S. with \$21B in retaliatory tariffs as global trade war heats up



The first shots of President Donald Trump's global trade war have been fired.

Canada on Wednesday announced new retaliatory trade duties on some \$21 billion worth of U.S. goods, a response to Trump implementing universal steel and aluminum tariffs.

Canada's retaliatory measures follow ones announced Wednesday by the European Union targeting a range of U.S. goods worth \$28 billion, including beef, motorcycles and whiskey alongside American-made steel and aluminum. China, too, signaled it was readying a response.

After weeks of threats and negotiations, the tariffs are among the first new, large-scale duties to actually be imposed by the countries, even as Trump has threatened many more. Besides supplemental duties totaling 20% on Chinese goods, Trump has suspended other menaced tariffs on Canada and Mexico.

The back-and-forth threatens to ignite a global trade war that could throttle economic growth prospects worldwide. The Trump administration has sought to downplay the immediate fallout from the trade volleys while also acknowledging there would be an economic "transition" or "detox" as

the president implemented his policy goals.

So far, the consequences have been significant, at least as measured by markets. Broad stock indexes have now erased their post-electoral gains as investors rebel against the prospect of higher costs.

As the trade barbs flew Wednesday, stocks gave up earlier gains seen following a better-than-expected inflation report that appeared to offer short-term relief. Shares in U.S. automakers fell. In a note to clients Wednesday, analysts with Barclays financial services group noted that when Trump implemented similar duties, Ford and GM reported weaker profitability.

The tariff battle with Canada pits the U.S. against its biggest trading partner. America's northern neighbor is the largest foreign supplier of steel and aluminum to the U.S., and experts have warned Trump's duties would be passed on to consumers.

In a news conference Wednesday announcing the retaliatory duties, a Canadian government spokesman called Trump's tariffs "completely unjustified, unfair and unreasonable."

"The U.S. administration is once again

inserting disruption and disorder into an incredibly successful trading partnership and raising the costs of everyday goods for Canadians and American households alike," said François-Philippe Champagne, Canada's minister of innovation, science and industry.

Canada's announcement comes despite a détente having been reached Tuesday with the Trump administration to resolve threats of a 25% surcharge on American consumers of Canadian electricity. Trump had threatened Canada with steel and aluminum tariffs climbing to 50% if the province of Ontario followed through on the surcharge.

The Trump administration has offered shifting rationales for the trade moves. In the case of the steel and aluminum tariffs, Trump has signaled the countries are taking advantage of the U.S. through their trade policies, something he says is reflected in America's yawning trade deficit.

Yet even as America's imports are at record levels, so are its exports. And some economists have argued that the tariffs are likely to threaten as many jobs as they might create, given the importance of accessing lower-priced, or specialized, raw steel and aluminum for American manufacturers of tractors or appliances.

Meanwhile, in the case of general trade duties that have been threatened — then suspended — on Canada and Mexico, the administration has also highlighted illicit fentanyl flows from those countries.

Yet last month, Trump stated a much more direct rationale for the tariffs onslaught.

"This is the beginning of making America rich again," the president said.

The Trump administration had not yet responded to the retaliatory measures announced Wednesday but has signaled it would respond in kind to any such moves. (*NBC News*)

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Memphis man says he was shot by his dog while lying in bed

A man sustained a gunshot wound when his dog accidentally fired a gun by jumping on a bed this week in Memphis, police said.

The Memphis Police Department responded to a home in the Frayser neighborhood just before 4 a.m. Monday.

The man told officers he was lying on his bed with

a friend when his dog jumped onto the bed and its paw got stuck in the gun's trigger guard, police said. The pet ended up hitting the trigger, the gun went off and the man was grazed in his upper left thigh, police said.

The dog was a pit bull puppy named Oreo, NBC affiliate WMC of Memphis

reported, citing the family of the victim.

The man's friend left the home after the gun went off and took the gun with her when she left, the man told police.

The victim was taken to the hospital in noncritical condition. One spent shell casing was also found on the floor of the front room.

Tennessee does not have any state laws requiring firearm owners to lock their weapons or store them in a certain way. However, the Memphis Police Department encourages people to keep their guns locked at home and offers free gun locks at precincts. (*NBC News*)



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Sports News

Wins for Navigators and Phoenix in ABBA's Division 2 League



The Navigators and Michael Joseph Phoenix recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division on Wednesday night.

The Navigators claimed their sixth win in nine matches with a 77-46 victory against Square One Con-

struction United in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Ricky Willock sank 27 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Ariel Quallis produced a triple double with 18 points, 15 assists, 10 rebounds, and seven steals; and Victor Osbourne scored 14 points and claimed five rebounds for the Navigators.

Neville Chambers converted 14 points and snatched 10 rebounds, and Andrew Simon also scored 14 points for United, who lost for the seventh time in eight games.

Michael Joseph Phoenix notched up their third win in nine encounters with a 60-53 victory against Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the second game of Wednesday's double-header.

Shalom Bloodman scored 15 points

and grabbed 17 rebounds; Ryan Noel sank 12 points and claimed 12 rebounds; Roshane Hewlette produced 11 points and eight rebounds; and Tahjer Jenkins had 16 rebounds and five points for Michael Joseph Phoenix.

Takeem Martin converted 22 points and grabbed 19 rebounds, Raiheem Lewis scored nine points, and Romel Diggs had 11 rebounds and eight points for the Fearless Crew, who lost for the fifth time in nine games.

The ABBA First Division will resume with a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday.

Total Imports EMC's Potters Steelers will take on Spanish Heat at 6:45 pm, and EZ Fit Flyers will face Da Project at 8:30 pm.



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Blackhawks and Lions meet in top-of-the-table clash in ABCA two-day championship

Reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks and second-placed CMW New Winthorpes Lions will meet in a top-of-the-table clash in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) two-day contest this weekend.

Only six points separate the two front-runners, who will clash in New Winthorpes during this weekend's seventh round of matches in the 10-team round-robin competition.

Leaders Liberta Blackhawks, who have won the competition for the past three seasons, will be seeking to remain on course for a successful defense of their title, having won five of their six matches to top the standings with 63 points.

The Lions have won four

of their six matches to stay within touching distance of the Blackhawks in second place with 57 points.

Liberta will enter this weekend's seventh round of matches as one of three unbeaten teams in the competition. The two front-runners and Empire Nation are the three teams yet to lose a match in the two-day competition.

Empire Nation is in joint third place with the All Saints Pythons with 48 points apiece.

Empire Nation will meet WES Rising Sun Spartans at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's, while the Pythons will take on the Jennings Tigers at Jennings.

The Jennings Tigers are currently occupying fifth place with 40 points, while

the Rising Sun Spartans are in seventh place with 21 points.

The Pigotts Crushers will host the Bolans Blasters at the Pigotts playing field.

The Pigotts Crushers occupy sixth place with 26 points, and the Bolans Blasters are in eighth place with 12 points.

Tertiary Institutions and Schools and Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles will meet in a bottom-of-the-table clash at the Factory Grounds.

The Bethesda Golden Eagles are second from the bottom of the standings with nine points, while Tertiary Institutions and Schools are currently occupying the cellar with six points.

All the teams will have the chance to improve their standings when the seventh round of matches commences on Saturday at 10 am.

Unlike previous years, the winner of this year's two-day competition will be the team with the most points at the end of the 10-team round-robin contest.

Under the new format, there will be no semi-finals and finals this year. In previous years, the top four teams in the standings at the end of the round-robin preliminary stage would advance to the semi-finals.

The winners of the two semi-finals would advance to the final to decide the title winners of the two-day competition.

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MARCH 10TH - MARCH 15TH



Primary School Cup commences today

The annual Ministry of Sports Primary School Cup football competition will commence on Friday (today).

Twenty-three teams, one less than last year, will compete in the 2025 competition, which will kick off with 11 matches today.

Cobbs Cross Primary will not participate in this year's competition in which all 23 teams will be divided into three groups.

Defending champions Five Island Primary will compete in Group A, which will be played at the Golden Grove playing field.

Five Islands will begin their title defense against Golden Grove Primary at 4 pm. That encounter will be preceded by two other Group A matches, both starting at 3 pm.

Jennings Primary will face Urlings Primary, and Olivia David Primary of Bolans will meet Greenbay Primary.

Golden Grove Primary, which was ousted in the quarter-final stage last year, won the title for the previous three years.

Led by captain Allan Henry, Five Islands Primary capped an unbeaten series of displays during the season by capturing the 2024 Ministry of Sports Primary School Cup title on Friday, June 14.



The Five Islands Primary School football team poses with their trophies after winning the Primary School Cup competition at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's on Friday, June 14, 2024.

Henry, who was named Most Valuable Player and Player of the Match, scored twice as Five Islands snatched a 3-1 victory against T.N. Kirnon Primary in the final at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's.

T.N. Kirnon Primary will compete in Group B, which will take place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG).

T.N. Kirnon Primary will take on Parham Primary, and Villa Primary will launch their campaign against New Winthropes Primary at 3 pm.

Pigotts Primary will challenge Pares Primary, and Potters Primary will clash with Nelvie N. Gore Primary of Willikies at 4 pm.

Three opening round matches will also take place in Group C at the Buckley's playing field.

J.T. Ambrose Primary will tackle Freemansville Primary, and C.T. Samuel will oppose St. Peters Primary at 3 pm. Buckley's Primary will clash with Sea View Farm Primary at 4 pm.

Meanwhile, All Saints Secondary recorded victory in the Under-16 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool

and Smooth Joma International Female School Football League on Wednesday.

All Saints Secondary snatched a 2-1 victory against Clare Hall Secondary School at the Antigua Recreation Grounds.

Keziah Lewis and Zahira Nanthon each scored once for All Saints Secondary, while Aliah London scored for Clare Hall Secondary.

But defending champions, Princess Margaret School, were held to a goalless draw by the Antigua Girls High School in their Under-16 girls encounter at the same venue.

Matthews applauds T20 leagues for bolstering women's game



Hayley Matthews

BENGALURU (Reuters) - Twenty20 leagues have transformed women's cricket from a sport that once relied on public support for survival into an appealing spectacle, according to West Indies white-ball captain Hayley Matthews.

The all-rounder, who shot to fame in the West Indies' 2016 ICC T20 World Cup triumph, said T20 leagues like the Women's Premier League (WPL) in India have fostered global exposure and helped develop the women's game.

"I feel like once upon a time, women's cricket was probably like, 'Come and watch the game to support the women,' whereas now I feel like we have a product that's entertaining and we have these skills that people want to see us play cricket," Matthews told Reuters.

"I think just getting the opportunity to play these leagues and have all the games televised and have people watching and supporting is naturally going to help the game to grow.

"There's plenty of opportunities for women to grow in cricket and I think competitions like the WPL give a platform for the game to grow. It introduces people to the game... shows the level of skill that we have in women's cricket."

Matthews has claimed the most wickets (17), one more than Mumbai

Indians teammate Amelia Kerr, in the ongoing WPL season.

Mumbai were denied top spot in the table following their 11-run defeat by Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday.

But the Mumbai Indians will take on the Delhi Capitals in the final of the Tata Women's Premier League on Saturday after defeating the Gujarat Giants by 47 runs in the eliminator at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday.

Mumbai batted brilliantly on their way to an imposing 213 for four in their 20 overs at the crease. Superstars Nat Sciver-Brunt and Hayley Matthews as well as skipper Harmanpreet Kaur were the main contributors to the total.

Sciver-Brunt and Matthews made 77, each, and shared in a 133-run second-wicket partnership.

Sciver-Brunt's knock lasted 41 balls and included 10 fours and two sixes, while Matthews hit 10 fours and three sixes in her 50-ball effort.

Kaur then provided the finishing touches with two fours and four sixes on her way to 36 off just 12 balls. Danielle Gibson was the best bowler on a rough day for the Giants with 2-40 from her four overs.

The Giants were then dismissed for 166 with four balls remaining in their innings. Gibson completed a good all-

round performance with a top score of 34 off 24 balls, while Phoebe Litchfield and Bharti Fulmali contributed 31 and 30, respectively.

Matthews picked up three for 31 from her 3.2 overs to lead the Mumbai bowling and was well supported by Amelia Kerr's two for 28 from four overs.

"I feel like ourselves along with DC (Delhi) are ready to look at these set-ups (playoffs). We have a really good balance of international players as well as the local Indian players too," Matthews said.

"We get contributions from so many different participants in the team like Nat (Sciver-Brunt), Melie (Amelia Kerr), Shab (Shabnim Ismail), myself, being able to step up as internationals.

"When you look at a captain like Harmanpreet (Kaur), even the young players, like Sanskriti Gupta that have come in this year, have been able to make massive impacts."

Matthews also harbours ambitions of leading the West Indies to a World Cup triumph, which they narrowly missed last year after an eight-run defeat to New Zealand in the T20 World Cup semi-final.

But the 26-year-old has her sights firmly set on test cricket with West Indies set to mark their return to the red-ball format.

The West Indies, who made their red-ball debut in 1976 and played their last test in 2004 against Pakistan, will host Australia in a one-off test next year.

Their return to test cricket will then continue with a home series against England in 2027, their first encounter since 1979, followed by an away test in South Africa in 2028.

"I feel test cricket is the pinnacle of cricket. It's called test cricket for a reason. It's a very challenging format of the game," Matthews said.

"I can't wait for the opportunity to go there and put on some whites and experience what that format is like."

Sports

FRIDAY 14TH MARCH 2025

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Post Millennial, Buckley's capture third place in Mini Primary Division



Post Millennial Academy mini girls



Buckley's Primary mini boys

Post Millennial Academy and Buckley's Primary have captured third places in the Mini Primary Division in the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Wednesday.

Post Millennial Academy finished third in the Mini Girls Primary Division after romping to an emphatic 16-1 drubbing of the Golden Grove Primary in their encounter at the JSC Sports Complex. Adys Howell sank 12 points for Post Millennial Academy.

Buckley's Primary claimed the bronze medals in the Mini Boys Primary Division with a 5-2 victo-

ry against Mary E. Pigott Primary in their encounter at the same venue.

Erije Joseph shot a game-high 12 points to lead defending champions St. Joseph's Academy to a 33-10 drubbing of St. Anthony's Secondary School.

St. Joseph's Academy also clinched a 27-20 victory against St. Mary's Secondary in the Junior Boys Division. Nathan Matthew and Jaden Lewis each scored seven points for St. Joseph's Academy.

Elijah Charles sank 26 points as Princess Margaret School also romped to a commanding 40-15 victory against St. Anthony's

Secondary in another Mini Boys Secondary affair.

But Antigua Grammar School ended the unbeaten run of Barbuda's Sir McChesney George Secondary in the Junior Boys Division.

Raheem Sawyer scored 20 points as the Antigua Grammar School snatched a 39-36 victory in the keenly contested affair.

Eli Harris converted 15 points for Sir McChesney George Secondary, which lost for the first time after winning their previous four games.

Princess Margaret School prevailed 66-45 against Clare Hall Secondary in another Junior Boys Division

encounter.

Gabriel De Suza sank 29 points, and Noah Masiah scored 14 points for Princess Margaret School, while Tajahron Davis shot an impressive game-high 42 points for Clare Hall Secondary.

After suffering back-to-back losses, Sir McChesney George Secondary returned to winning form, securing their second win in four games with a 37-20 victory against Island Academy in the Senior Boys Division.

Eli Harris converted 14 points for Sir McChesney George Secondary, while Alexander Fuller scored 12 points for Island Academy.