

Regional Solidarity: Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica's Deepening Bonds

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Dominica's Prime Minister Rosevelt Skerit embrace each other in a celebration of unity, history, and brotherhood among Caribbean people

Photos by Wayne Mariette

Regional Solidarity: Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica's Deepening Bonds



ty, history, and brotherhood among Caribbean people, particularly between Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Montserrat.

That's the assessment of Prime Minister Gaston Browne as he recalled the 'electrifying atmosphere' as Dominicans came out in large numbers to show support for their own Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit. It was a night filled with warmth, pride, and deep cultural resonance.

Prime Minister Browne was emphatic in describing the unique relationship between

Antiguans and Barbudans, Dominicans, and Montserratians—not as cousins, but as brothers and sisters. He stressed that this synergy must continue in perpetuity, even beyond his tenure in office. The symbolic gesture of offering the People's Place as a permanent home to the Dominica Labour Party spoke volumes about the depth of that alliance.

"This relationship is not just symbolic. During times of financial strain, when Antigua and Barbuda struggled to meet its obligations, Prime Minister Skerrit ex-

Last Friday's gathering at the People's Place was more than just a political rally—it was a celebration of uni-

Photos by Wayne Mariette



tended a helping hand by yielding part of Dominica's credit limit at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank to allow Antigua and Barbuda to access emergency funds. This act of kindness and brotherly love happened repeatedly, especially during our first term," PM Browne disclosed.

Conversely, he added, when Dominica was ravaged by Hurricane Irma, Antigua and Barbuda opened its arms, accommodating over 3,000 Dominicans and even allowing Prime Minister Skerrit to operate from the Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister's office. "This mutual support underscores a real, tangible bond that has transcended political gestures and reached into the realm of personal and national sacrifice," PM Browne highlighted.

It was also explained that the collaboration between PM Browne and PM Skerrit goes beyond mutual aid. The two leaders have been united in representing the interests of the Caribbean

on international platforms, advocating fiercely for resources and sustainable development for small island states. According to

Browne, Skerrit stands as the modern architect of Dominica's transformation, having made the most substantial contributions to the

country's socioeconomic progress over the past two decades.

While acknowledging that "a prophet is not without honour, save in his own country," Browne confidently asserted that Skerrit's influence is undeniable and that he is well-positioned to win a historic sixth term. Among Skerrit's crowning achievements is the construction of a new international airport—an infrastructural milestone that will significantly increase access to Dominica for tourists and investors alike.

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Local News

DLP 70 Years of Labour Legacy



The 70th anniversary of the Dominica Labour Party—a political movement that has long championed the needs of the working class, was observed last Friday night at a specially convened meeting of Dominicans living in Antigua and Barbuda.

The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, the People's Place, where Dominica's Prime Minister Rosevelt Skerrett and other officials of the DLP were hosted by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the leadership and members of the ABLP.

PM Browne used the opportunity to emphasize the natural political alignment between Dominicans and the Labour movements in both Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda, citing that many Dominicans in the country have historically supported the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party as a continuation of their political values.

He reflected on this by noting how some individuals, such as former Attorney General Justin Simon, initially supported the Labour Party before shifting allegiances. While respectful of such political shifts, PM Browne emphasized the enduring loyalty many Dominicans have shown to Labour's ideals, particularly through their public service contributions in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Prime Minister also shed light on the demographic and cultural in-

tegration of Dominicans in Antigua and Barbuda. An estimated 20–30% of the country's population has Dominican heritage—a testament to the long-standing migratory ties between the two islands.

"This connection has enriched Antigua and Barbuda socially, economically, and culturally. From senior roles in the police force and port management to cultural and familial ties, Dominicans have been a cornerstone in the nation's growth," he indicated.

He further illustrated this point with a comparison of population trends, noting how Antigua and Barbuda's population grew significantly while Dominica's remained relatively static—due in part to Dominican migration that helped bolster Antigua's workforce and economy.

He added that despite past prejudices towards other Caribbean nationals, Dominicans were quickly and warmly assimilated into Antiguan society. "We never saw them as foreigners," Browne declared. "We actually saw them as our brothers and sisters."

The night's celebration was also a nod to the growing cultural synergy in the region, especially through music. Notably, Dominican artist Asa Banton was present, and Browne expressed optimism about deeper collaborations between Dominican and Antigua and



Barbuda musicians. He specifically called on Asa to consider working with local talents like Claudette Peters and Tian Winter, whom he believes are exceptionally talented but need broader exposure.

However, this led to a moment of misunderstanding with Tian Winter, who felt slighted by the Prime Minister's comments. PM Browne addressed this directly, highlighting the importance of constructive criticism and mature dialogue. He reiterated that his intention was not to offend but to elevate local talent by encouraging honest reflection and improvement.



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Press statement by Hon. Daryll Matthew re: the proposed closure of St Andrews Primary School



The Minister of Education, Hon. Daryll Mathew, has directed senior officials within the Ministry of Education to engage directly with the management of St. Andrews School in response to the recently announced closure of the institution.

Minister Mathew has also held preliminary discussions with Prime Minister Gaston Browne to assess the implications of the closure on students, faculty, and the broader educational landscape, as well as explore proactive solutions.

Minister Mathew emphasized the government's firm commitment to protecting the interests of all affected stakeholders. "We recognize the deep disruption this development may cause for students, parents, and educators alike. As a Government, we are determined to pursue every viable avenue to ensure that no child is left behind and that every teacher is supported during this transition," he stated.

Minister Mathew added, "Our aim is to maintain continuity in education and preserve the learning environment for the students currently enrolled at St. Andrews. If the conditions allow, one option could be integrating the facility, students, and teachers into the public school system. Of course, this would be subject to the willingness of



the school's current owners to sell, and the successful completion of the necessary due diligence by government authorities."

The Ministry will provide further updates as discussions progress and concrete decisions are made. The Minister of Education is currently overseas on official government business and remains actively engaged in efforts to address the situation.



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Education officials were surprised by St. Andrews' announcement



St. Andrews Primary school,

Ministry of Education, including Minister Daryll Matthew, were surprised by the unexpected announcement of the planned closure of the St. Andrews Primary School at the end of this month.

Last Friday, the principal of the school, Andrea Walter, sent letters to parents and guardians indicating that the school will close effective June 27, 2025, citing financial reasons for the decision.

The announcement sparked an immediate response from Minister Matthew, in which he indicated that following discussions with Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the government is considering a number of options to keep the school open. These include possible integrating the school into the public school system. (Minister Matthew's press statement is attached).

Director of Education, Clare Browne, said no one in the ministry had any prior knowledge of the pending the closure of the school. The Education Officer responsible, Emil Michael, was notified Friday by telephone when Walter reached out to request a meeting. That meeting will take place with both Director Browne and Michael on Tuesday afternoon.

In her letter to parents/guardians, Walter noted that the school relies almost exclusively on school fees to finance its operations with fundraising helping to cover the shortfall. However, she noted that the institution was severely

impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, from which it never truly recovered. Lowering of the school fees and other measures did not stem the exodus of some students. Despite the challenges, Walter said the management decided to keep the school open as long as possible, but that now they must make the



Director of Education, Clare Browne,

'painful' decision of closing the institution.

She added that at no time was any staff member laid off or was retrenched.

It is not immediately known what is the student count of the school.



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Housing Development is coming to the Briggins/Belmont area



Scores of people turned out at a meeting convened in the St. John's City South constituency on Thursday night as the parliamentary representatives outlined plans to undertake a housing development in the Briggins/Belmont area.

MP Sir Steadroy Benjamin convened the meeting to discuss the issue of housing, long being a source of contention for the residents mainly because there is so little government-owned lands in the constituency, given

that it encompasses many urban areas.

Nonetheless, Sir Steadroy was able to convince his Cabinet colleagues of the urgency of the matter and swayed his colleagues to make a total of 15 acres of land in the area available immediately for a housing project.

"We had a wonderful turnout from constituents and I also invited a representative from the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) in the person of the Executive

Housing Officer, Mark Richards, as well as representatives from Community First Credit Union and the builders who attended," he outlined. He added that the ABLP Chairman and Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, was also in attendance.

"Thank you Comrade Chairman for your attendance and setting the tone for the total involvement of the many scores of constituents who attended the session," Sir Steadroy stated.

According to the MP, clearing of the lands is expected to begin shortly and it is expected that sod will shortly be turned for the construction of the first home sometime in the second half of the year.

The project will involve 2 and 3-bedroom housing. However, persons wanting a bigger property (four-bedrooms) may also negotiate with the financial institution and the builders.

Local News



The Department of Culture Presents “Summer in Arts and Culture II”



“Empowering Our Youth to Manifest Their Gifts” is the theme of the annual workshops in the creative arts organized and executed by the Department of Culture.

The Department has announced the return of its highly anticipated youth arts summer camp, “Summer in Arts and Culture II”, taking place from Monday, June 30 to Friday, July 11, 2025. The program will be held weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Princess Margaret Secondary School.

“Open to young people ages 9 to 17, this two-week camp aims to inspire creativity, build confidence, and empower youth to explore and develop their artistic talents. The camp will

provide a nurturing and stimulating environment where participants can discover new forms of expression, learn from experienced instructors, and connect with their cultural identity,” the department said in a media release.

It said campers will be immersed in a wide range of artistic disciplines, including:

Dance

☐ Drama

☐ Music (Vocals, Steel Pan, Recorder, Folk Drum)

☐ Visual Arts

☐ Carnival Arts

According to the department these workshops are more than just an introduction to the arts—they are designed to foster personal growth, teamwork, critical thinking, and emotional resilience. Participants will gain valuable skills in discipline, communication, and creative problem-solving, all of which contribute to well-rounded personal development.

The Department of Culture believes in cultivating the next generation of creatives, cultural practitioners, and leaders who will help shape the nation’s cultural identity and contribute meaningfully to its creative economy.

Registration Information:

The registration fee for the full two-week program is EC \$100.00.

Register online: <https://form.jotform.com/251343005663853>

Or in person at: The Ministry of Creative Industries, Old Parham Road.

For additional details, follow the Department of Culture – Antigua and Barbuda on Facebook or email us at cddanu.info@gmail.com.





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Queen of Carnival travels to St. Thomas for Miss Caribbean Universe Pageant



Queen of Carnival, 2024, Desrie Markham has traveled to St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, where she will represent Antigua and Barbuda in the second staging of the Miss Caribbean Universe Pageant.

Queen Desrie traveled to St. Thomas on Monday for the pageant which takes place on Saturday night in Charlotte Amalie. She is competing against representatives from four other countries; Barbados, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago and host country, the US Virgin Islands.

While the show is entering its second year, it is the first time that Antigua and Barbuda will be participating. The pageant is being judged in five categories; interview, ambassadorial wear, talent, swim-wear and evening wear.

Queen Desrie left for St. Thomas with strong support from the nation of Antigua and Barbuda including the Minister of Creative Industries, Darryll Matthew, Minister of State, Sen. Shenella Govia and other well-wishers.



Five injured in traffic accident in Barbuda



Five persons, believed to be Antiguan, received minor injuries when the minivan in which they were traveling overturned on the River Road in Barbuda.

According to reports from Codrington, the vehicle was traveling in what is believed to have been 'high speed' when the accident happened. It was reported that

the passengers were hurrying to catch the ferry back to Antigua when the vehicle ran off the road and slid onto its side.

Preliminary reports indicate that the injuries were 'minor'. The identities of the injured have not yet been disclosed.

Villa man to appear in court this week to answer break-in and larceny charges

The Police have arrested and charged 35-year-old Jamie Tittle of Villa in connection with a recent break-in and theft at a warehouse on Fort Road.

He is accused of unlawfully entering the warehouse and stealing thirty-seven (37) 32-inch flat screen televisions and fourteen (14) electrical fans, all valued at EC\$48,345.

Following ongoing investigations, the accused was taken into custody and later charged. He is expected to appear before the court sometime this week.

The police continue to urge the public to report any suspicious activities

by calling the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline number at 800-Tips (8477).

Meanwhile, the police have seized an illegal firearm and several rounds of ammunition during an early morning operation at Bendals.

Around 6 a.m. on Sunday, June 8, a joint team of police officers executed a search warrant on a property occupied by a Trinidadian and a Vincentian national. During the operation, the officers discovered one chrome revolver, several rounds of matching ammunition, and multiple items of

camouflage clothing. The items were seized as part of an ongoing investigation.

Both individuals were arrested on suspicion of Unlawful Possession of Firearm and Ammunition and were taken into custody.

The police are again appealing to the public to report any suspicious activity and share information related to illegal firearms by contacting the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or anonymously through Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).



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The Unpaid Heroes Still Showing Up for Us All



By Joshuanette Francis

You might not know their names. You may never see them on a billboard or hear them ask for applause. But make no mistake—right here in Antigua and Barbuda, there's a small group of committed citizens doing the hard work of change. And they haven't been paid a dime since October 15th.

Yet, every week, they show up.

While most of us are winding down from work or scrolling through headlines, this team is walking beaches, collecting recyclables, designing inclusive school programs, building apps, and pushing for policy change. And they're doing it without a paycheck, powered instead by something much stronger—purpose.

Their goal? To make this country better—not just for

today's youth, but for every person with a disability who deserves to be seen, heard, and included. They've developed a one-of-a-kind Student Community Service App, worth upwards of \$45,000 EC, entirely unpaid. It tracks students' environmental and civic actions—from bottles recycled to trees planted—and will make volunteer work a part of graduation requirements.

And that's not all. They've got over \$180,000 EC worth of bottles stored on a piece of land in John Hughes, part of a plan to turn plastic waste into economic opportunity. They've written to the Government, ready to redeem and recycle those bottles into sustainability funding.

No salaries. No fame. Just people who believe in the future of this island.

What fuels them? It's not sympathy. It's strategy. These folks know that disability rights, environmental reform, and community empowerment won't build themselves. They take the meetings. They write the policies. They plant the trees. They teach the children.

And they do it with a signature move—a two-finger salute. A symbol of peace, unity, and resilience. Not raised in defiance, but in solidarity.

It says:
 "We see you. We stand with you. We are capable. We are AWESOME."

This message is for everyone. Especially our brothers and sisters living with disabilities who just need to know that someone cares enough to fight for their place in this society.

These heroes may be quiet—but their impact? It speaks volumes.

Let's amplify them. Let's support them. And let's remember that real change doesn't start with politics or policies. It starts with people.

And these people are doing the work.



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Photo Story

2025 Barbuda Caribana Calypso Compition



Photo Story



Regional News



5 Caribbean nations to compete for Miss Caribbean Universe crown

Five contestants representing nations across the Caribbean region will compete for the Miss Caribbean Universe title on Saturday, June 14, 2025, in St Thomas, US Virgin Islands.

The competition will feature representatives from Haiti, the US Virgin Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados, each vying for the regional crown.



Florancia Casseus will represent Haiti in the

competition, while the US Virgin Islands will be represented by Majestik Estrada Petersen. Antigua and Barbuda's delegate is Desrie Markham, and Trinidad and Tobago will be represented by Tineka Francois. Barbados has selected Tia Browne as their contestant.

The pageant is themed "A Tropical Escapade: Keeping Our Culture and Pageantry Alive." (*Loop Caribbean*)

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Regional News

PAGE 19

Guyana: Government opens new hospital to serve East Bank corridor



Health Minister, Dr Frank Anthony, said that the previous Diamond hospital, which had been in operation for 18 years, could no longer meet the growing demand.

He said while temporary upgrades were made in 2020, including transforming it into “smart hospital”,

the government decided to build an entirely new facility to support the expanding population.

“We’re making sure that people living on the East Bank have access not just to healthcare, but to the best healthcare,” Anthony said. (*Loop Caribbean*)

President Irfaan Ali says the opening of the new multi-million Diamond Regional Hospital, will provide healthcare services for more than 40,000 people along the East Bank corridor.

“This is an investment that will ensure our women, children, elderly and all alike have a level of treatment that is not based on income or status. That is what this investment is doing: providing quality, efficient, equitable services. This is an investment in the people of our country,” Ali told the ceremony that was attended by Prime Minister Mark Phillips, Vice President, Bharrat Jagdeo, other Cabinet members, health officials, and residents of the area.

The government said that the hospital with 75 in-patient beds as well as three operating theatres, has been constructed to

meet Chinese, British, and American medical standards.

The Diamond facility was constructed under a partnership with China’s Sinopharm International. It forms part of a broader GUY\$37.2 billion (One Guyana dollar=US\$0.004 cents) initiative, in which facilities are being developed at five regions in Guyana.

Ali said that these facilities are being standardised with matching equipment and capabilities to ensure seamless, high-quality care and easier long-term maintenance.

“We want to ensure that the government invests simultaneously in equivalent care so every Guyanese can have a minimum standard of care. Regardless of which region you’re from –that is what this government is about,” President Ali said.



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Regional News



DR man on US top 10 most wanted list captured



Aman from the Dominican Republic who is on the US list of the 10 most wanted fugitives has been captured in a joint operation by DR and US authorities.

Luis Francisco Soriano, known as “Yefri” or “Yeyo,”

was arrested near Arena Gorda beach on El Macao Road in La Altagracia province following extensive joint intelligence and interdiction work by agents of the National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD), coor-

ordinated by members of the Public Prosecutor’s Office and supported by US Marshals.

The 32-year-old Dominican is charged with being involved in a quadruple homicide on August 31, 2024,

near Rochester, New York. Two of the victims were children aged two and four years old.

Soriano faces multiple charges in New York State, including first- and second-degree murder, first-degree burglary, first-degree kidnapping, and premeditated first- and second-degree arson.

Given the nature of the alleged crimes, his perceived danger to the community and his ability to evade authorities, the US Marshals Service included Soriano on the list of the 10 most wanted fugitives.

The arrest initiated the extradition process against Soriano to face charges in the United States. (*Loop Caribbean*)

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Tropical Storm Barbara strengthens off Mexico, expected to become hurricane



Tropical Storm Barbara was strengthening Sunday off the southwest coast of Mexico and was expected to become a hurricane but without menacing land, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

Barbara was located about 170 miles (275 kilometres) south-west of the touristic port of Zihuatanejo in Guerrero state, according to the centre.

It had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph), and was moving west-northwest at 12 mph (19 kph). No coastal watches or warnings were issued.

The storm is expected to become a hurricane later Sunday as it moves west-northwest for two more days, before turning toward west into the Pacific by Tuesday, forecasters said.

Barbara formed off the southwest coast of Mexico earlier Sunday.

Heavy rainfall totals of 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimetres), with amounts of up to 6 inches (15 cen-

timetres) in limited areas, are possible across portions of the Mexican states of Guerrero, Michoacan, Colima, and Jalisco through Monday.

The rainfall may lead to flooding and mudslides.

Swells affecting portions of the southwestern Mexico coast for the next few days can produce life-threatening surf and rip current conditions, the hurricane centre said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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- Degree or certification in Engineering, Facilities/Maintenance Management or a related field (BSc/BA in Business or Facility Management is an asset)
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Interested persons should submit a cover letter, detailed resume, and copies of relevant qualifications no later than June 15, 2025 to:

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 P.O. Box 1473
 St. John's
 Antigua

Or email: hr@sjdcanu.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

California governor plans to file lawsuit against Trump over National Guard deployment to protests



California Gov. Gavin Newsom said he planned to file a lawsuit Monday against President Donald Trump in response to the administration's extraordinary deployment of the National Guard to confront immigration protesters who took to the streets in Los Angeles.

"Commandeering a state's National Guard without consulting the Governor of that state is illegal and immoral," Newsom, a Democrat, told MSNBC on Sunday.

The streets of the sprawling city of 4 million people were mostly quiet Monday morning, the day after crowds blocked off a major freeway and set self-driving cars on fire as law enforcement responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades.

Sunday's protests were centered in several blocks of downtown and a hand-

ful of other places. It was the third and most intense day of demonstrations against Trump's immigration crackdown in the region, as the arrival of around 300 Guard troops spurred anger and fear among many residents.

Many protesters dispersed as evening fell and police declared an unlawful assembly, a precursor to officers moving in and arresting those who don't leave. Some of those who stayed threw objects at police from behind a makeshift barrier. Others hurled chunks of concrete, rocks, electric scooters and fireworks at California Highway Patrol officers and their vehicles parked on the closed southbound 101 Freeway. Officers ran under an overpass to take cover at one point.

The Guard was deployed specifically to protect federal buildings, including the downtown detention center where protesters

concentrated.

Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said officers were "overwhelmed" by the remaining protesters. He said they included regular agitators who show up at demonstrations to cause trouble.

Several dozen people were arrested throughout the weekend. One was detained Sunday for throwing a Molotov cocktail at police and another for ramming a motorcycle into a line of officers.

Trump responded to McDonnell on Truth Social, telling him to arrest protesters in face masks.

"Looking really bad in L.A. BRING IN THE TROOPS!!!" he wrote.

Newsom called on Trump to rescind the Guard deployment in a letter Sunday afternoon, calling it a "serious breach of state sovereignty."

The governor, who was in Los Angeles meeting with local law enforcement and officials, also told protesters that they were playing into Trump's plans and would face arrest for violence or property destruction.

"Trump wants chaos and he's instigated violence," he said. "Stay peaceful. Stay focused. Don't give

him the excuse he's looking for."

The deployment appeared to be the first time in decades that a state's National Guard was activated without a request from its governor, a significant escalation against those who have sought to hinder the administration's mass deportation efforts.

McDonnell pushed back against claims by the Trump administration that the LAPD had failed to help federal authorities when protests broke out Friday after a series of immigration raids. He said his department responded as quickly as it could and had not been notified in advance of the raids.

Newsom, meanwhile, has repeatedly said that California authorities had the situation under control. He mocked Trump for posting a congratulatory message to the Guard on social media before troops had even arrived in Los Angeles, and he told MSNBC that Trump never floated deploying the Guard during a Friday phone call. He called Trump a "stone cold liar."

The admonishments did not deter the administration. (MSNBC)

International

Warner Bros. Discovery to split CNN, TNT from HBO Max and studios



Warner Bros. Discovery, the parent company of HBO Max, CNN and TNT, announced Monday it would split into two companies by the middle of next year, the latest move by a major media conglomerate to reckon with a fracturing audience landscape.

The split will see one company house Warner's studios and streaming units, which include HBO Max, the DC Comics universe, and film production and distribution. That group will be led by WBD CEO David Zaslav. The other will comprise WBD's TV networks, such as CNN and Discovery, and will be led by Chief Financial Officer Gunnar Wiedenfels. That company will also take on most of WBD's existing debt.

"By operating as two distinct and optimized companies in the future, we are empowering these

iconic brands with the sharper focus and strategic flexibility they need to compete most effectively in today's evolving media landscape," Zaslav said in a statement. The move is likely to trigger a fresh wave of deal-making and consolidation in the legacy TV industry, which has been hammered by cord-cutting from cable customers who are shifting more to streaming and social video platforms like TikTok.

WBD's decision echoes Comcast's announcement late last year stating it was spinning off its cable networks, including CNBC, MSNBC, E!, Syfy, Golf Channel, USA and Oxygen. That new company is set to be called Versant. Comcast owns NBCUniversal, the parent company of NBC News.

The news confirms earlier reporting that had indicated WBD was

heading toward such a split, as Zaslav looked to reset the company's finances. In December, the company announced restructuring that many saw as a precursor to a full break.

Zaslav has experienced a turbulent time atop WBD, which was formed in 2022. Within months of the conglomerate's official launch, he was already addressing speculation that it was pursuing a sale. He has also taken flak for shelving nearly finished movie projects and ending Chris Licht's tenure as CNN chairman and CEO after just one year.

Wall Street has pummeled WBD's shares, which have fallen by some 60% since Zaslav was named head of the company. Its stock jumped 11% in Monday trading following news of the coming split.

In a recent note to clients, Bank of America analysts said WBD was "not working as a publicly traded entity" and that "transformative changes" were likely needed despite what they called the "tremendous value" of WBD's core media properties.

Zaslav, in a call with investors Monday morning, said the company would consider where to house WBD's streaming sports efforts, noting they have not been a "driver" for their current home on HBO Max. WBD recently lost the rights to the NBA to NBCUniversal and Amazon's Prime Video. (*NBC News*)

Prince William says ocean conservation is a challenge like no other ahead of U.N. summit



The third U.N. Ocean Conference opens Monday, with Britain's Prince William among those raising the pressure on nations to turn decades of promises into real protection for the sea.

The summit comes as just 2.7% of the ocean is effectively protected from destructive extractive activities, according to the nonprofit Marine Conservation Institute. That is far below the target agreed under the "30x30" pledge to conserve 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Atop this year's agenda is ratification of the High Seas Treaty. Adopted in 2023, the treaty would for the first time allow nations to establish marine protected areas in international waters, which cover nearly two-

thirds of the ocean and are largely ungoverned.

Speaking ahead of the conference, Britain's Prince William said Sunday that rising sea temperatures, plastic pollution and overfishing were putting pressure on fragile ecosystems and the people who depend on them.

"What once seemed an abundant resource is diminishing before our eyes," William, heir to the British throne, told the Blue Economy and Finance Forum in Monaco. He described the challenge as being "like none we have faced before".

"Put simply: the ocean is under enormous threat, but it can revive itself. But, only if together, we act now," he told the meeting of investors and policymakers.

Mauro Randone, regional projects manager at the World Wildlife Fund's Mediterranean Marine Initiative, said that "it's the Wild West out there with countries just fishing anywhere without any sort of regulation, and that needs to change."

"The high seas belong to everyone and no one practically at the same time, and countries are finally committing to establish some rules," he added.

The ocean is critical in stabilizing Earth's climate and sustaining life. It generates 50% of the oxygen we breathe, absorbs around 30% of carbon dioxide emissions and captures more than 90% of the excess heat caused by those emissions. Without a healthy ocean, experts warn, climate goals



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will remain out of reach.

The treaty will only come into force once 60 countries ratify it. As of Monday, just 32 countries had. Advocates hope UNOC can build enough momentum to cross the threshold, which would allow for the first official Oceans Conference of Parties.

“Two-thirds of the ocean is areas beyond national jurisdiction — that’s half our planet,” said Minna Epps, director of global ocean policy at the International Union for Conservation of Nature. “We cannot possibly protect 30% of the ocean if it doesn’t include the high seas.”

South Korea, France and the European Union have championed the treaty, but most large ocean nations have yet to ratify it, including the rest of the G20. Thousands of attendees are expected in Nice, from delegates and heads of state to scientists and industry leaders. The

United States has yet to confirm a formal delegation.

Beyond new commitments, the conference highlights the growing gap between marine protection declarations and real-world conservation.

France, the conference co-host, claims to have surpassed the 30% target for marine protection. But environmental groups say only 3% of French waters are fully protected from harmful activities such as bottom trawling and industrial fishing.

“The government declares these as protected areas, but this is a lie,” said Enric Sala, founder of the National Geographic Pristine Seas marine reserve project. “Most of it is political box-ticking. It’s all paper parks.”

That criticism is echoed across the continent. A new World Wildlife Fund report found that although more than 11% of Europe’s ma-

rine area is designated for protection, just 2% of E.U. waters have management plans in place.

Fabien Boileau, director of marine protected areas at France’s Office for Biodiversity, acknowledged the presence of bottom trawling in French protected areas, but said it was part of a phased strategy.

“In France, we made the choice to designate large marine protected areas with relatively low levels of regulation at first, betting that stronger protections would be developed over time through local governance,” he said. “Today, we’re gradually increasing the number of zones with stricter protections within those areas.”

Advocates say industrial fishing lobbies continue to resist stricter protections, despite evidence that well-managed reserves boost long-term fisheries through the “spillover effect,” whereby marine life

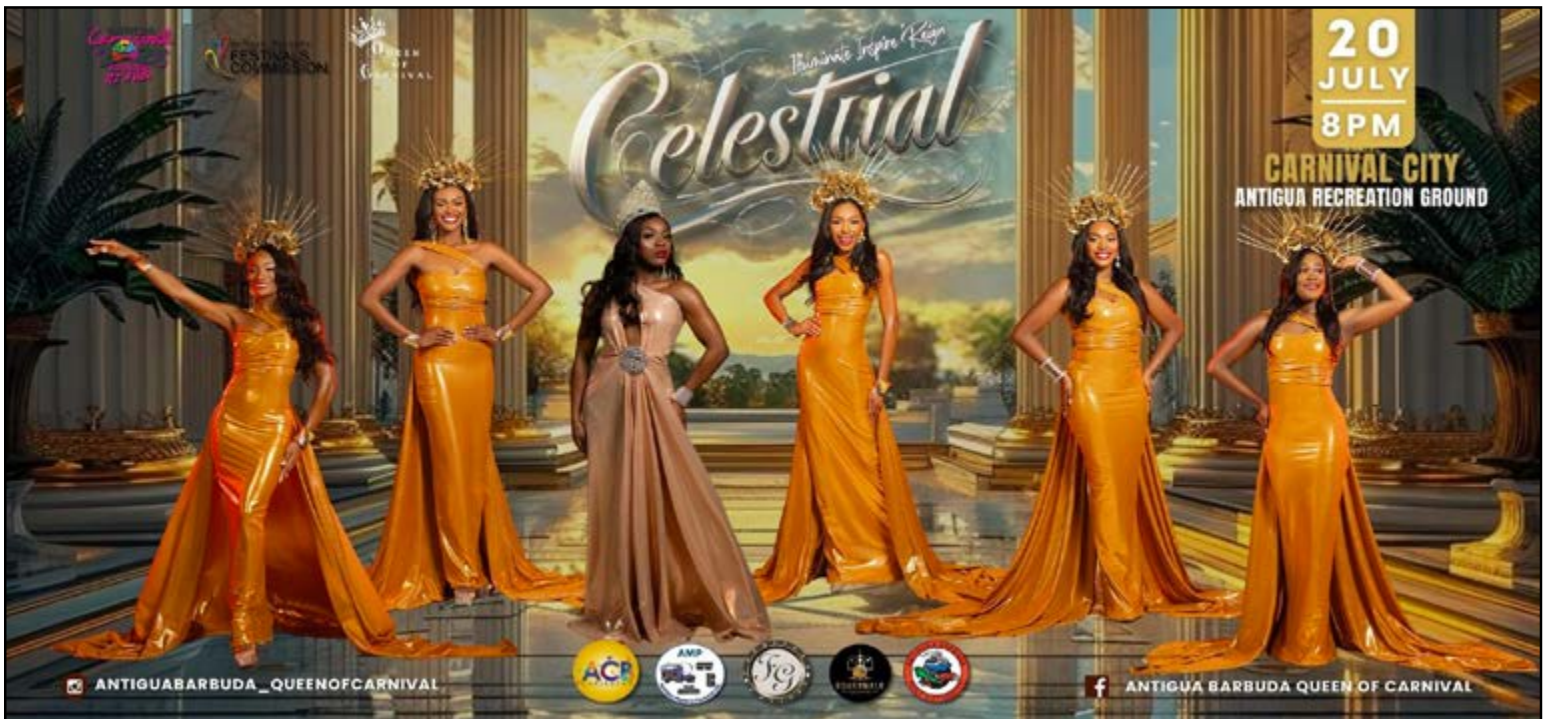
flourishes in nearby waters.

“Protection is not the problem — overfishing is the problem,” Sala said. “The worst enemy of the fishing industry is themselves.”

The conference will feature 10 panels on topics such as blue finance, sustainable fisheries and plastic pollution. Deep sea mining is expected to feature in broader discussions, while small island states are likely to use the platform to advocate for increased climate adaptation funding.

The outcome of these discussions will form the basis of the Nice Ocean Action Plan, a declaration of voluntary commitments to be adopted by consensus and presented at the United Nations in New York this July.

“There cannot be a healthy planet without a healthy ocean,” said Peter Thomson, U.N. special envoy for the ocean. “It’s urgent business for us all.” (*NBC News*)



Sports News

Jets 2 clinch runners-up spot in Women's 2nd Division Volleyball League



The Jets 2 female volleyball team

Jets 2 have clinched the runners-up position in the Women's Second Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Division 2 Development League.

The Jets soared to a 2-0 victory against bottom-team Dynasty Queens 2 in their last encounter of the nine-team round-robin league at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Jets took 40 minutes to prevail 25-13, 25-15 against Dynasty Queens 2, who finished their campaign in the cellar with one point after suffering their eighth loss in as many games in the competition.

The result also ensures that the Jets wrapped up their campaign with their sixth win from their quota of eight games.

Dynasty Queens 1 clinched third place after being awarded a 2-0 (25-0, 25-0) victory against Royal Cruisers 2, who were unable to field a team for

their final encounter on Sunday.

Royal Cruisers 2 finished their campaign second from the bottom of the standings with a record of seven losses and one win.

Dynasty Queens 1 also snatched a 2-1 victory against Chargers Eagles 2 in their penultimate encounter. It took Dynasty Queens 1 an hour and 15 minutes to prevail 23-25, 25-17, and 16-14 against Chargers Eagles 2.

It means Dynasty Queens 1 finished the competition in third place with a record of six wins and two losses from their quota of eight games.

Chargers Eagles 2 snatched a 2-1 victory against Starz 2 in their final encounter to finish in fifth place. It took Chargers Eagles 2 an hour and 25 minutes to prevail 18-25, 25-11, and 15-9 against Starz 2.

Chargers Eagles 2 wrapped up their campaign with a record of four wins and four losses, the same as Starz 2. However, Starz 2 clinched fourth

place by virtue of winning more sets overall in the competition. Starz 2 finished with 15 points, three more than Chargers Eagles 2.

However, Stoneville 2 and Invaders 2 finished their campaign in the Men's Second Division League on a disappointing note. Both teams were penalized by the ABAVA for failing to show up for their final encounter.

The ABAVA ruled that both teams forfeited the encounter. Stoneville 2 ended their campaign in the runners-up position in the four-team round-robin tournament.

Stoneville 2 finished with a record of four wins and two losses, while the Invaders 3 claimed third place with a record of two wins and four losses.

The Chargers Velocity won the Men's Second Division League with a record of five wins and one defeat, while the Sharks finished in the cellar after suffering six losses in as many games.

England seal T20 series with four-wicket win against West Indies



England's Ben Duckett, right, plays a reverse sweep during the second T20I against the West Indies in Durham, England, on Sunday, June 8, 2025. (Getty Images)

England weathered a brutal late assault from the West Indies to clinch a four-wicket win in the second T20 International in Durham on Sunday, securing an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Set a challenging target of 197 after a sensational finish by the West Indies, England successfully chased down the total in 18.3 overs at the County Ground, led by crucial contributions from Jos Buttler, Harry Brook, and Tom Banton.

After being sent in to bat, the West Indies endured a nightmare start when Evin Lewis was trapped lbw by Luke Wood on the very first ball of the innings.

However, a 90-run stand between Johnson Charles and captain Shai Hope helped stabilize the innings. Charles struck 47 off 39 balls, while Hope added

49 off 38, with both batters clearing the boundary multiple times.

Their dismissals in quick succession saw the middle order stutter, with Sherfane Rutherford (6) and Rovman Powell (34 off 15) falling before the 18th over. At 148 for five, the innings needed a spark — and it came in dramatic fashion.

The penultimate over, bowled by Adil Rashid, proved decisive in pushing the West Indies to a formidable total. Jason Holder and Romario Shepherd combined to smash 31 runs off the 19th over, the most expensive of the innings.

That explosive over propelled the Windies from 159 for five to 190 for five. Shepherd (19 off 11) was eventually run out in the final over, while Holder remained unbeaten on 29 from just 9 balls.

Roston Chase faced only one delivery that he hit for a six and was at the crease as the West Indies closed on 196 for six, scoring 75 runs in the final four overs.

Rashid, who had earlier dismissed Hope, ended with bruising figures of one for 59 from four overs. Luke Wood was the pick of England's bowlers, taking two for 25.

In reply, England got off to a shaky start with Jamie Smith falling early to Holder, but a 63-run partnership between Buttler and Ben Duckett steadied the chase.

Duckett struck 30 from 18 before Shepherd removed him with a short ball. Buttler top-scored with 47 off 36 before Akeal Hosein had him caught in the deep.

Harry Brook added a rapid 34 from 20 balls, while Jacob Bethell hammered 26

from just 10 deliveries to swing the momentum firmly England's way. Tom Banton finished the job, smashing an unbeaten 30 from 11 balls to guide England to 199 for six with nine deliveries remaining. Alzarri Joseph led the West Indies attack with two for 49.

Meanwhile, Jos Buttler and Liam Dawson were the stars of the show as England opened their three-match T20I series with a 21-run victory at the Riverside Ground in Chester-Le-Street on Friday.

Former captain Buttler starred with a top score of 96 to help the hosts post 188 for six from their 20 overs. Buttler hit six fours and four sixes in his 59 balls, anchoring the innings brilliantly in the end. He received good support from Jamie Smith, who made 38 off 20 balls opening the batting and Jacob Bethell, who finished on 23 not out off 23 balls.

Romario Shepherd, fresh off winning the IPL title with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, took two for 33. The West Indies were then restricted to 167 for nine from their 20 overs to remain winless on the tour.

Evin Lewis was the team's highest scorer with 39 off 23 balls. Liam Dawson was brilliant with his left-arm spin, picking up four for 20.

The third and final T20I is set for Tuesday (today) in South Hampton.

Anguilla beat Antigua to win LICB T20 Festival



Anguilla celebrate with their trophies after winning the inaugural senior Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) T20 Festival at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

Anguilla capped an impressive unbeaten performance by romping to a 21-run victory over host Antigua and Barbuda in the final to win the inaugural senior Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) T20 Festival at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday.

Set 196 to win, Antigua and Barbuda were dismissed for 174 in 19.4 overs by the Anguillans, who entered the final as the only unbeaten side in

the tournament.

It was also the second win in the six-team round-robin tournament for the Anguillans of the host nation after snatching an 11-run victory against Antigua and Barbuda when both finalists met in the preliminary round-robin stage.

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament Jahmar Hamilton, fellow opener Chesney Hughes, and skipper Dimitri Adams all hit

half-centuries as Anguilla made an impressive 195 for three off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

The diminutive Hamilton struck 69 off 57 balls, including eight fours and three sixes. Hughes hammered 59 off 28 balls, with eight fours and three sixes, and Adams smashed 55 off 30 balls, including three sixes and three fours.

Off-spinner Kofi James captured two for 50, and

Antiguan skipper and fellow off-spinner Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall picked up one for 28.

Chasing 196 for victory, Antigua & Barbuda made a promising start. Opening batter Tyrone Williams Jr. led the charge with a knock of 71 off 52 balls.

Williams Jr. struck eight fours and two sixes while expertly navigating the early overs and keeping the required run rate manageable.



Anguilla's Jamar Hamilton poses with his trophies for the tournament's MVP and most runs awards.

Dahri Francis scored 20 off 14 balls, Hayden Walsh Jr. cracked 18 off 12 balls, Elroy Francis Jr. also struck 18 off seven balls, and Kofi James made 15 off nine balls, but Antigua couldn't keep pace with the required run rate.

The Anguilla bowlers were able to deliver disciplined bowling, pushing the required run rate higher and preventing batters from settling.

Jaidel Richardson was particularly effective, claiming three wickets for 22 runs; Mark Gokarran picked up two for 23, and Shivnarine Benjamin added to the pressure by taking two for 27.

Earlier on Sunday, Nevis snatched a nine-run victory against the Combined Islands (Montserrat and St. Maarten) to clinch the playoff for third place.

Nevis posted 144 for nine off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Opener Ross Powell slammed 53 off 37 balls, including three sixes and three fours,

and Sheldon Forbes made 21 off 27 balls.

Amarius Harris claimed three for 14 in four overs, while captain and left-arm spinner Daniel Doram captured two for 25.

In reply, the Combined Islands were unable to overcome a poor start to their run chase and were eventually restricted to 138 for eight off their 20 overs.

Zawandi Whyte hit a top score of 42 off 37 balls, Joshua Grant struck 32 off 28 balls, and Daniel Doram made 20 off 17 balls. Pacer Kian Pemberton snapped up four for 15 in his four overs.

Pemberton finished as the tournament's joint highest wicket-taker with Anguillan pacer Andros Bowens. Both players captured 13 wickets each from a total of six matches.

Champions Anguilla also made a clean sweep of all the individual awards. In addition to capturing the tournament's MVP award, Jahmar Hamilton also claimed the prize for the most runs with an aggregate of 313 runs in six matches at an average of 52.

Anguilla's wicketkeeper Deon Burton won the award for the most dismissals with a total of 10, including six catches and four stumpings.



ST. JOHN'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SJDC)

VACANCY

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC) invites applications from suitably qualified professionals to fill the post of Chief Financial Officer.

The successful candidate will provide strategic financial leadership and oversee the Corporation's financial operations, including accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, treasury management, and compliance. The CFO will also supervise the Accounts Department and work closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support the Corporation's strategic goals.

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversight of all financial activities including Payroll, Accounts Payable/Receivable, Cash Flow, and Debt Management.
- Prepare budgets, monitor performance, and conduct variance analysis.
- Manage internal and external audits.
- Ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Lead the development and implementation of financial systems, controls, and policies.
- Supervise and guide accounting personnel, including performance evaluations and training.

Minimum Qualifications:

- A Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business Administration.
- Professional designation (ACCA, CPA, CGA) is required.
- A Master's in Business Administration (MBA) would be an asset.
- Minimum of 7 years' experience in a senior financial management role.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Excel, and QuickBooks.
- Excellent communication, analytical, and leadership skills.

Application Instructions:

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, detailed resume, and copies of relevant qualifications no later than June 15, 2025 to:

The Executive Director
 St. John's Development Corporation
 P.O. Box 1473
 St. John's
 Antigua
 Or email: hr@sjdcanu.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Pride at stake for Antigua in last 2026 World Cup qualifier



The Antigua Benna Boys starting team during their 2026 FIFA World Cup CONCACAF Group A Qualifier against Cuba at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday, June 6, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the ABFA)

Antigua and Barbuda will be playing for pride in their final outing in the CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football) Region of their campaign in the second round of qualifying matches for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Finals.

Following the completion of the second round, the group winners and runners-up will progress to the third and final round of World Cup qualifiers.

With no chance of qualifying, the senior Antigua Benna Boys will play their fourth and final Group A encounter away to Honduras at the Estadio Nacional Chelato Ucles in Tegucigalpa on Tuesday at 8 pm (10 pm Antigua time).

The Antiguan's slim hopes of advancing to the third and final stage of the qualifying competition ended in their penultimate Group A encounter, a one-nil loss to Cuba at home at the ABFA Technical Center last Friday, June 6.

Pedro Bravo struck the lone goal of the encounter in the eighth minute of added time in the first half. Bravo slammed home a right-footed shot on the volley from a corner kick, which was delivered by Diego Catusus.

The result allows Cuba to improve to six points and move to second place in the five-team Group A behind leaders Honduras.

The Cubans can book their spot in the third round as the second qualifiers from Group A with a victory against Bermuda in their final outing at the Estadio Antonio Maceo in Santiago, Cuba, on Tuesday.

Honduras secured their qualification to the third round by snatching a 1-0 victory against the Cayman Islands at the Truman Bodden Sports Complex in George Town, Cayman Islands, on Saturday, June 7.

Honduras currently leads Group A with nine points after securing their third win in as many games.

The second round of the CONCA-

CAF qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup includes 30 CONCACAF member associations that are also FIFA members (excluding the three World Cup hosts, Canada, Mexico, and the United States).

For the second round, the 30 participating teams were divided into six groups of five each during the CONCACAF World Cup Qualifiers official draw on January 25, 2024.

The final round matches will be played during the September, October, and November 2025 FIFA Match Windows.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament will take place from June 11 to July 19. It will be jointly hosted by 16 cities in three North American countries: Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

The tournament will be the first hosted by three nations and the first North American World Cup since 1994. Argentina is the defending World Cup champion.

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tore hammered an unbeaten 51 off 21 balls, including five sixes and three fours. Fellow opener Rolston Tris Phillip cracked 32 off 20 balls, including three fours and two sixes.

Antigua Masters prevailed by 54 runs against defending champions St. Kitts Masters. Antigua Masters made 151 for six off 15 overs. Austin Richards Jr struck 56 off 26 balls, including five sixes and three fours, Ian Gore slammed 45 not out off 26 balls, and Gershum Phillip cracked 23 off 12 balls. Leroy Leader claimed two for 23.

In reply, St. Kitts Masters were restricted to 97 for six off 15 overs. Phillip Webbe struck 44 not out off 34 balls, including four fours and two sixes. Leg-spinner Anthony "I Roots" Martin captured two for 13.

In addition to capturing the tournament's MVP award,



Antigua and Barbuda's Kerry Mentore was named the MVP of the 2025 Leeward Islands Masters Tournament.

Kerry Mentore of Antigua Masters also claimed the prize for the most runs with an aggregate of 190 runs in three innings.

Chaka Hodge of Anguilla claimed the Most Wickets Award with a total of four scalps in two matches, while Bonnel Andrew of St. Thomas won the Best Wick-

etkeeper Award.

Nevis will host next year's annual Leeward Islands Masters Cricket Tournament.



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Antigua captures Leeward Islands Masters title



Antigua Masters celebrate after winning the 2025 Leeward Islands Masters Cricket Tournament at the Caribe Lumber Ball Park in Phillipsburg, St. Maarten, on Sunday, June 8.

Antigua and Barbuda captured the Leeward Islands Masters T20 Championship in St. Maarten over the weekend.

The Antiguan secured their title with a crushing 71-run victory over Nevis in the final at the Caribe Lumber Ball Park in Phillipsburg on Sunday.

Tournament Most Valuable Player Kerry Mentore slammed an unbeaten century to propel Antigua Masters to an imposing 225 for one off their allotted 20

overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Mentore hammered 134 not out off 65 balls, including 15 fours and seven sixes. Mentore shared in a 207-run opening stand with Rolston Tris Phillip, who cracked 86 off 52 balls, including six sixes and five fours.

In reply, Nevis Masters were restricted to 154 for four off their 20 overs. Stuart Williams hit 37 off 30 balls, fellow opener Collin Walwyn struck 30 off 33 balls, and Junior Mills made

27 off 18 balls. There was a contribution of 29 extras, including 13 byes.

Both teams advanced to the final after topping their respective groups in the seven-team preliminary stage in which each team played two matches.

Nevis Master prevailed in Zone B that also included St. Croix and St. Thomas masters. Antigua Masters won Zone A, which also comprised defending champions St. Kitts, Anguilla, and host St. Maarten.

Antigua Masters crushed St. Maarten Masters by nine wickets. St. Maarten Masters won the toss and batted, scoring 100 for six off 15 overs. Lionel Ritchie slammed 43 off 31 balls, including four fours and two sixes.

Ian Gore picked up two wickets for nine runs, and Dean Williams captured two for 24.

Antigua Masters achieved victory by scoring 101 for one in 7.4 overs. Kerry Men-

con't on page 31