

# Government cracks down on illegal dispensaries

*Story on Page 2*



**SLBMC Observe  
World Sickle Cell Awareness Day  
June 19**

sir lester bird medical centre



*Story on Page 8*

# Local News



## Government cracks down on illegal dispensaries

The government has launched an aggressive campaign to rid the country of illegal dispensaries, some of which involve individuals roving the country administering a variety of drugs.

As part of the campaign, Cabinet has given its full support to the Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Alfred Athill, to crack down on a growing trend of illegal businesses appearing around the country ad-



**Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Alfred Athill**

ministering illegal treatments to individuals to include the injecting of Ozempic. Ozempic is a popular weight-loss, but like all medicines, it must be dispensed by licensed pharmacists based on prescriptions issued by a doctor.

The Director and the police conducted an undercover operation over the weekend on one such illegal business and confiscated a number of items to include drugs and syringes filled with what appear to be substance for the illegal treatment of patients.

An individual was detained and questioned and later released while police continue their investigations. No charges have yet been filed.

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## Advisory Team Engages Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Strengthening Maritime Security Under ISPS Code



**Foreign Affairs, Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim.**

Representatives from the nation's security apparatus which make up the Advisory Team on maritime security standards, met this week with the designated authority within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim.

The Advisory Team comprises representatives from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF), and the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP) convened the meeting with Dr. Pilgrim as part of a coordinated effort to reinforce maritime security standards.

The meeting focused on the implementation and enforcement of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. This code, developed under the International Maritime Organization (IMO), provides a comprehensive framework aimed at enhancing the security of ships and port facilities against threats and unlawful acts.

The Advisory Team and the Ministry discussed strategies to ensure that national regulations aligned with the ISPS Code are effectively upheld. The discussion also emphasized the importance of inter-agency coordination and continuous training to ensure the high-



est level of readiness and compliance. "Maritime security is national security," stated Dr. Pilgrim. "Antigua and Barbuda remains firmly committed to upholding the principles of the ISPS Code and working alongside our security agencies to protect our ports,

safeguard our people, and maintain international confidence in our maritime operations."

This meeting represents a unified step toward strengthening national security architecture and maintaining safe and secure maritime operations.


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# Local News



## International Non-profit organization selects Antigua and Barbuda as the venue for its 2026 conference

*Caring for Others*, a leading international non-profit organization based in Atlanta, Georgia, has announced that it will convene its 2026 conference in Antigua and Barbuda.

The announcement was made at a press conference held on Wednesday at the Copper and Lumber Store where three senior officials of the organization, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Eslene Richmond-Shockley, Board Chair, Crystal Khalil and Board Member, Megan Lowell addressed local media representatives.

When asked what led her to forming *Caring for Others*, Dr. Richmond-Shockley revealed that she was called upon by God, to start the organization some 25 years ago. "Twenty-five years ago, I started with \$25.00. I came from the corporate world and I left corporate because I was told that I had a brain tumor and that I had six months to live. Against that backdrop, here I am today because it was back in 1995 when I received that diagnosis. I was called by God to help his people and this is where I am today. It's the most rewarding job that I have ever had; my husband and I," she remarked.

According to Dr. Richmond-Shockley, *Caring for Others* does not have a



religious component; rather, it has a faith component. "We help anyone; you don't have to be religious," she stated.

However, she believes strongly in the maxim, 'faith without works is dead'. "I am literally doing what I was called one night to do; go help God's people," she added.

Dr. Richmond-Shockley explained that her organization operates from its own offices in Atlanta, Georgia

in the United States, and that it also owns large warehouse spaces from where it distributes food and clothing to the poor in several communities, not just in the United States but also in several Caribbean territories, including Antigua and Barbuda.

For over 25 years, *Caring for Others* has worked tirelessly to combat poverty and restore dignity to vulnerable communities across the globe. Through

its comprehensive support services, including food distribution, clothing assistance, and sustainable economic empowerment programs, it has become a catalyst for lasting change in the lives of thousands.

At the press conference, the organization announced the launch of the 2026 International Poverty Forum and Think Tank, scheduled to take place in March 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda. This groundbreaking global initiative will bring together influential leaders and change-makers from the public, private, and non-profit sectors to advance bold solutions to end poverty.

Additionally, the organisation announced the 2026 Beneficiary of the Economic Empowerment Fund—a cornerstone of the Micro Economic Community Empowerment (MECE) Programme. This fund is dedicated to investing in sustainable projects that support self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship in under-resourced communities.

Rhonda Spencer, a single mother of three, who has survived health challenges and homelessness, was the recipient of the award for US\$5,000.00 to assist her set up a small business producing authentic souvenir items for sale to tourists.



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Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission



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# Local News



## Sports officials Visit Clemson University to Strengthen Sports Development Partnerships



Deputy Commissioner of Sports, Joel Rayne, and Director of Sports, Heather Samuel-Daley, recently completed an official visit to Clemson University in South Carolina, USA. The high-level engagement forms part of the government's continued commitment to forging international partnerships to enhance sports development in Antigua and Barbuda.

During the visit, the officials engaged in productive discussions with senior officials from Clemson University's athletics department, focusing on creating pathways for Antiguan and Barbudan athletes to benefit from scholarship opportunities, elite-level training, and academic advancement through sports.

The delegation toured Clemson's state-of-the-art sporting facilities, interacted with coaching staff, and explored potential collaboration in areas such as sports science, athlete development programs, and coaching education exchanges.

Speaking on the significance of the visit, Deputy Commissioner Rayne stated: "Our mission is to ensure that Antiguan and Barbudan athletes have access to international standards of

training and education. This visit to Clemson University is a step toward opening doors for our talented athletes to grow and excel on and off the field."

Director of Sports, Heather Samuel-Daley, added: "As a former athlete, I understand the value of global exposure. Clemson's facilities, coaching expertise, and academic programs present exciting possibilities for our athletes

and sports administrators. We are committed to building sustainable partnerships that will benefit Antigua and Barbuda for years to come."

The Ministry of Sports will continue to update the public on concrete programs and opportunities arising from this visit, as Antigua and Barbuda strengthens its position in regional and international sports development.



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TSG Water Resources (Antigua and Barbuda), Inc. is in search of a seasoned General Manager with expertise in the water treatment field. Ideal candidates should bring a wealth of experience, including a minimum of five years operating reverse osmosis plants and membrane bioreactor wastewater treatment plants. Additionally, candidates should have at least three years of management experience, demonstrating proficiency in developing and maintaining budgets, as well as leading staff. A proven track record of successfully working with multiple international businesses for a minimum of three years is also required.

As the General Manager, you will play a pivotal role in providing leadership and direction. Serving as a knowledgeable resource to the organization's management team, you will maintain quality service by enforcing standards in quality and customer service. Analyzing and resolving issues related to quality and customer service, identifying trends, and recommending system improvements will be part of your responsibilities. This position is required to perform water and wastewater treatment operator duties as required.

Leading and managing day-to-day operations, you will direct, plan, assign, coordinate, supervise, develop, and evaluate staff work. Successfully resolving employee concerns and problems, coaching, counseling, and disciplining staff, as well as conducting performance appraisals, are crucial aspects of this role. Additionally, you will represent the company to clients and potential clients, performing water and wastewater treatment operator duties as required.

The General Manager will also be responsible for developing and directing operating budgets, reviewing and approving expenditure. This role involves local and international travel to ensure the success and growth of the company. If you are a dynamic leader with a strong background in water treatment, we invite you to join our team and contribute to the success of TSG Water Resources (Antigua and Barbuda), Inc.

To apply please send your CV to [agoings@tsgwater.com](mailto:agoings@tsgwater.com) with the subject **Application for GM of Operations**.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JULY 1ST 2025



## Wayne Thomas surrenders to police



Wayne Thomas, also known as “Bubbler,” of Buckleys, who was wanted by police in connection with an ongoing investigation, has surrendered.

The 30-year-old suspect turned himself in at St. John’s Police Station around 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 June, accompanied by his attorney.

A wanted bulletin was previously issued for Thomas, as police sought to question him in relation to a shooting incident that occurred in Free-town on Monday, 16 June.

It is believed that Thomas was in the company of Cadaphe Evanson on Monday night when a shootout took place between Evanson and the police. He is believed to have escaped the police dragnet just prior to the shootout.

The Police Administration wishes to thank the general public for their

cooperation and continued support. The police remain committed to ensuring the safety and security of all residents and visitors and encourage anyone with information related to this case or other criminal activities to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Meanwhile, the police have arrested and charged a 39-year-old Jamall Prince of Seatons with unlawful possession of one (1) 9mm Smith and Wesson pistol, and unlawful possession of fifteen (15) 9mm rounds of ammunition.

Around 3:40 a.m. on Tuesday, 17 June, police officers were at Seatons

conducting an operation when the accused ran from a property. The officers pursued and apprehended him and, recovered the illegal weapon. He was arrested and taken into custody and subsequently charged for the offences.

The police continue to intensify their efforts to remove illegal firearms from off the streets, and are also encouraging members of the public to report any suspicious activities by contacting the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Prince was expected to appear before the court on Wednesday.

## NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE

Magistrate’s Court  
High Street  
St. John’s  
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

Police headquarters  
America Road  
St. John’s  
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS  
THE CLOUDY BEACH

I, Clarence James, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street, St. John’s, Antigua on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2025 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect or premises known as “The cloudy Beach” situated Perry Bay, in the Parish of St. John’s, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 17th day of June. 2025



# Special Feature

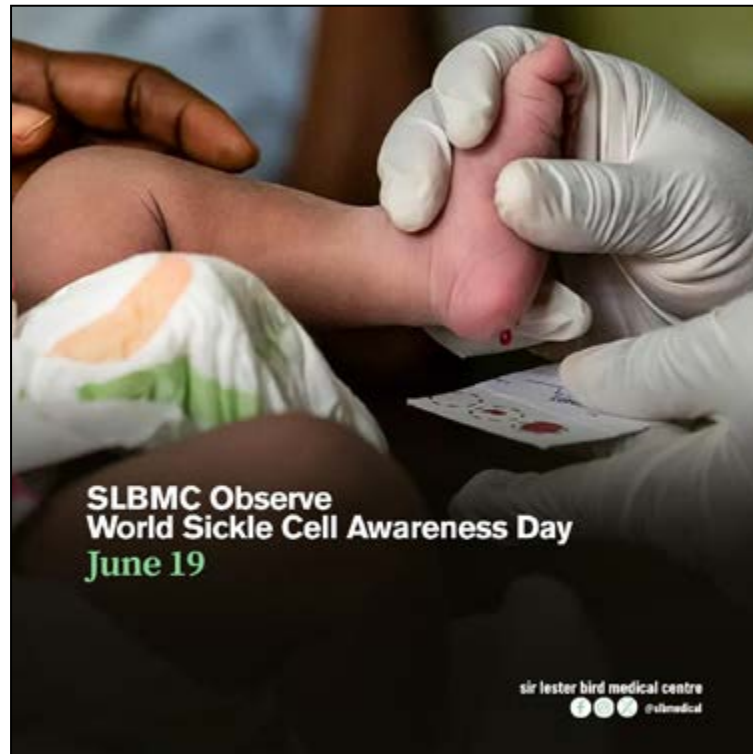


## SLBMC Marks World Sickle Cell Awareness Day with Focus on Education, Screening & Empowerment

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) joins the global community in observing **World Sickle Cell Awareness Day**, standing in solidarity with individuals and families affected by sickle cell disease (SCD) today, June 19. This year's theme, "Global Action, Local Impact: Empowering Communities for Effective Self-Advocacy," highlights the critical need for awareness, early detection, and community education.

Since the launch of SLBMC's Universal Newborn Screening Program in September 2020, a total of 4,666 newborns have been screened for sickle cell disease and trait. This program has been instrumental in identifying both affected individuals and carriers, providing families with early, life-saving information.

*"The importance of knowing your sickle cell status cannot be overstated," said Dr. Claudine Rich-*



*ardson, Consultant Paediatrician and Acting Chair of the Paediatric Department. "The diagnosis of sickle cell disease doesn't just affect the person with the condition—it affects the entire family. Education is essential, and early screening gives families the tools*

*they need to plan, prepare, and advocate for better outcomes."*

The hospital's screening program has also shed light on a concerning trend—many fathers are unaware of their sickle cell status, which can have implications

for family planning and risk awareness. SLBMC continues to advocate for wider public testing, emphasizing that knowledge of one's status is important for all individuals, not just expectant parents.

Sickle cell disease is a lifelong condition that can cause severe complications, but with proper education, monitoring, and early intervention, the quality of life for affected individuals can be greatly improved. SLBMC remains committed to advancing public health by empowering individuals and communities to take action through informed decision-making and continued awareness.

For more information on SLBMC's Sickle Cell Program, screening services, or to speak with a healthcare professional, please contact the Paediatrics Department at 484-2730.





## Title: World Sickle Cell Day: Strength in Community

**By: A Sickle Cell Warrior**

In the quiet corners of our society, there are individuals and families bravely facing a daily challenge that often goes unseen; living with Sickle Cell Anemia. This is not only a personal health battle but a profound communal experience. For those affected, community support is not just helpful, it is life-sustaining. As someone living with Sickle Cell Anemia, June 19<sup>th</sup> World Sickle Cell Day as observed by the United Nations, is more than just a date. It is a powerful reminder of the daily fight for survival, the need for greater awareness, and the strength of community that has carried me and countless others through our most challenging days.

Sickle Cell disease is a chronic blood disorder that affects the shape and function of red blood cells. These sickled cells block blood flow leading to severe pain episodes (called crises), organ damage, frequent hospital visits and an overall reduced quality of life. It is a condition that affects millions worldwide, particularly people of African, Caribbean, Mediterranean and South Asian descent.

Growing up with sickle cell in Antigua and Barbuda meant frequent absences from school, long hospital stays, employment uncertainty and often feeling misunderstood and my abilities underestimated. Pain episodes can come suddenly and with such intensity that even breathing becomes difficult. The unpredictability of sudden health crises often leaves you feeling like you're battling an invisible opponent. But what people often don't see, and what I want to celebrate today, is the unbreakable strength of community that surrounds people like me. It's that community that transforms suffering into strength.

While I have learned to advocate for myself, to balance rest with responsibility, to listen to my body but not let the disease steal my future, I under-



stand that it takes courage, and it takes community. My community has empowered me to be gainfully employed and allowed me to seek higher learning and excel in every undertaking. For that, I am eternally grateful.

Community is an integral part of our experience. It's the net that catches us when we fall. The sickle cell community is a circle of strength; patients, families, friends, healthcare professionals, caregivers and advocates all united by a shared experience. It is in this circle that I found support, understanding and hope. That is why community initiatives and support organizations are so critical, not just for emotional wellbeing, but for survival.

One such organization doing life-changing work right here at home is the Sickle Cell Association of Antigua and Barbuda. Led with passion and persistence by Dr. Edda Hadeed, SCAAB is a beacon of hope. Dr. Hadeed has been a tireless advocate for sickle cell awareness, early detection, and holistic patient care. Under her leadership, this grassroots nonprofit provides education, medical outreach, public awareness campaigns and direct support to families affected by sickle cell disease in our twin-island state.

One of the most impactful services offered by SCAAB is the "Clinic day", held every Wednesday at the Sickle Cell Clinic located at the Holberton

Hospital. These clinic days are more than medical appointments. They are opportunities for education, counseling, and community building. It's where we, as patients, feel seen and heard. Additionally, it functions as a safe space for warriors to connect, share experiences, vent about struggles, and celebrate each other's milestones. This local community has taught me that while our battles may be personal, they are not isolated. Together we are strong, and our voices matter.

The Sickle Cell Association of Antigua and Barbuda relies on donations and community support to continue its work. Your contribution, whether financial, vocal or voluntary, helps sustain a lifeline for patients who are often left in the shadows of our healthcare system. Information on how you can lend your support to their efforts can be found at [www.sicklecellantigua.org](http://www.sicklecellantigua.org).

To those reading this who have sickle cell: you have every right to dream big. You are not a burden. You are not broken. Your life is valuable, and your goals are valid. Keep pushing forward. This World Sickle Cell Day let's recommit to supporting one another. Let's amplify the voices of those who live with this disease. And let's ensure that no one in Antigua and Barbuda, or anywhere, has to fight alone.

## Imagine Waking Up and Everything is Gone: The Urgent Need to Protect the Caribbean's Digital Borders



**Director of Academic Studies at the University of the West Indies FIC, Dr. Curtis Charles**

*By Dr. Curtis Charles*

*Imagine waking up one morning and every system you rely on—your bank, your government portal, your hospital, your business—is locked, corrupted, or completely offline.*

No electricity bill can be paid. No patient records can be accessed. Flights can't be confirmed. Ports are stalled. Phones go silent.

This isn't a scene from a science fiction movie. It's the very real and growing threat of cyber warfare—unfolding silently beneath the surface of our Caribbean blue skies and digital ambitions.

This year's AI Research Conference comes at a moment of

deep urgency, and no panel may be more timely or vital than *"AI and Cyber Resilience: Fortifying the Caribbean's Digital Borders."* It is a warning shot across the bow—a call to every leader, policymaker, business owner, and citizen: **we are already under attack.**

**And yet, we are dangerously underprepared**

Across the Caribbean, we are digitizing with speed but securing with delay. While our nations embrace online banking, e-government services, cloud-based healthcare, and digital tourism platforms, few are investing in the advanced defenses required to protect them. The ocean that has always connected us now leaves us exposed—our undersea cables, port technologies, and maritime logistics are vulnerable to cyber sabotage. **Cyber surveillance on our open seas is now as important as coastal radar**—not just to track ships, but to detect digital incursions and hostile signals that could cripple critical infrastructure.

This panel, featuring cybersecurity strategist Edward Millington, CaribNOG director Stephen Lee, and UWI computer science lecturer Dr. Sean T. Miller, will address the new frontier of warfare—**invisible battles waged not with guns, but with code.**

Artificial Intelligence, once thought of as a future luxury, is

now a frontline necessity. AI can sweep massive networks in seconds, detect hidden breaches, recognize threat patterns used by adversaries, and respond faster than any human team. But without trained personnel, national strategy, and cross-island collaboration, AI remains an untapped ally.

What's at risk? **Everything.**

Healthcare systems that can't access electronic records. Financial institutions losing millions in seconds. Tourism operators frozen by ransomware. Small businesses shuttered by stolen data. Airports grounded. Utilities hijacked.

Cyberattacks are not just attacks on systems—they are attacks on **sovereignty, survival, and public trust.** And the adversary doesn't care if you are big or small. In fact, smaller, less protected islands make easier targets.

As Stephen Lee has warned, "We're not waiting for a cyber hurricane. We're already in the storm. The question is—do we have a roof?"

This panel sounds the alarm. It is more than a discussion—it is a mission. It demands that we stop treating cybersecurity like an IT issue and recognize it as **the regional emergency** that it is.

If the Caribbean is to thrive in the age of AI, we must do more than connect—we must **defend.** And the time to act isn't next year. It's now.





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*Speaker*

**EDWARD MILLINGTON**



*Speaker*

**HON. CHARLES HENRY FERNANDEZ**

# A34: The Man, The Machine, and The Mirror

By J.M. Sutherland

*"A34 has become a national Rorschach test – a canvas onto which people project their views about public life, privilege, eccentricity, and endurance."*

In every country, there are stories that transcend the physical objects they center around – stories that become metaphors, markers of deeper truths. In Antigua and Barbuda, one such story is the tale of A34, a battered Volkswagen owned and driven by Lionel "Max" Hurst, a man whose public life has been as enduring – and polarizing – as the car itself.

At first glance, A34 is an eyesore – a machine well past its prime, with patchwork repairs that seem to hold it together more out of nostalgia than mechanics. Its doors creak. Its engine groans. It has, by all accounts, earned its retirement. Yet, there it is, day after day, crawling along the streets of St. John's like a relic out of time. And there is Max, at the wheel. Unbothered. Unapologetic.

For Max, this car is more than transportation. It's a statement. A stubborn, rolling declaration of loyalty, resilience, and memory. It is the very embodiment of a generation that believed in fixing what was broken, not replacing it. A generation that didn't measure value by shine but by service. A generation that saw dignity



in the worn, the aged, the faithful.

Of course, the irony doesn't escape those who know Max beyond the wheel. His steadfast commitment to this one car may be his most enduring relationship yet. And that's part of the intrigue. The symbolism isn't perfect. But it's real. And real, in all its contradictions, is what makes the story compelling.

The license plate – A34 – is more than just a number. It's legend. It's satire. It's poetry. It has become a character in its own right, earning its place in the island's digital folklore. There's pride in that plate, pride in its vintage status, and perhaps even in the irony that it rides on a car that looks like it should have expired with the Cold War.

When the latest video surfaced – "A34 is down. I bet you it's back on the road tomorrow," showing Max and passers-by pushing – the internet lit up. Some laughed. Some jeered. Some applauded. The Prime Minis-

ter reposted the clip, perhaps out of affection, perhaps out of amusement, and perhaps even out of understanding. The responses flowed!

But beneath the jokes and jabs is something deeper. A34 has become a national Rorschach test – a canvas onto which people project their views about public life, privilege, eccentricity, and endurance. Some see nobility. Others see indulgence. And still others see signs of favoritism asking: Would any ordinary citizen be allowed to keep such a vehicle on the road, let alone with such a prestigious plate as A34?

Or does the car's very presence – with its creaks, rust, and stop-start resilience – say more about what we value in a changing society than about the man himself?

In truth, A34 isn't just about a car. It's about how society treats persistence. Some see it as a badge of humility – the stubbornness of a man who refuses to bow to the disposable culture of modernity. Others see it as

defiance – the indulgence of ego, nostalgia, or both. But all are watching. And that, perhaps, is the point.

For Max, who has walked the halls of diplomacy and politics, the car may serve as a grounding force. A symbolic tether to his roots, a counterpoint to the high offices he has held. Or maybe, simply, it's his way of saying: I decide what still serves me. Not society. Not trends. Me. Or maybe, just maybe, he's being cheap. Or, as one might put it, strategically frugal.

In the end, A34 is not a story about a car. It is a story about identity, love, defiance, and the complicated ways we see each other – and ourselves. It is a reminder that sometimes what we choose to keep, patch up, and push down the road, broken or not, says more about us than anything new ever could.

There is something oddly poetic about A34 rattling through St John's – patched-up and persistent, drawing stares, laughter, photos, and debate. See an eyesore, if you must. See a relic. See a curiosity. See a symbol of a country still wrestling with questions of worth, tradition, and change. And if you're feeling generous, smile at the charm of it all.

"Drive it till it tap run," as the streets say. For Max knows exactly what he is doing. And he is not done driving yet.





ANTIGUA  
AND BARBUDA  
*The beach is just the beginning...*



# innet PARTY MONARCH

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SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST **YUNG BREDDA**

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## Local Activist Featured in Global Magazine for Disability Advocacy



**Antiguan advocate and educator Joshuanette Francis**



nization built on two pillars: disability advocacy and Climate Action

This mission caught the attention of international observers—and now the world is watching.

Below is the translated article from The Big Issue Japan, recognizing her story and vision:

**Walking Challenges Lead to the Founding of an NPO — Toward a Society Where Disabilities Don't Hinder Living**

Antigua and Barbuda

Joshuanette Francis was diagnosed with osteoarthritis at age 24 and told she might lose her ability to walk by 40. In response, she decided to “enjoy walking while I still can” and began visiting 365 natural and scenic spots across her home country.

She documented her journey through photos and SNS (social media), which gained widespread attention. Along the way, she witnessed the harsh reality

of poorly maintained sidewalks and lack of accessibility, which are serious challenges for people with disabilities.

Francis then began advocating for the rights and support of persons with disabilities. In 2023, she founded the nonprofit organization Good Humans 268 Inc.

She promotes environmental awareness and accessibility by encouraging schools to create barrier-free facilities. Her goal is to improve not only the infrastructure but also the mindset of society. “Changing how people view ‘things and people they don’t understand’ will lead to building a better society,” says Francis. “Good Humans is a community of people who work toward that kind of change, and I’m truly grateful for everyone who’s part of it.”

(Reported by Takamatsu Reiko / Sources: BBC, Good Humans 268 Inc.)

In a world that often overlooks the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, Antiguan advocate and educator Joshuanette Francis is ensuring our voices are not just heard—but amplified on an international scale.

Francis, founder of the nonprofit Good Humans 268 Inc., has been featured in The Big Issue Japan, a widely respected magazine that shares stories of social transformation across continents. Her feature—translated into Japanese and now circulated throughout Asia—underscores the global relevance of her work and the undeniable impact of her advocacy in Antigua and Barbuda.

Her journey didn’t begin with fame. It began with a

diagnosis.

At 24, Francis was diagnosed with osteoarthritis, a condition that left her with the painful awareness that walking might become impossible by age 40. Yet instead of retreating into despair, she turned her diagnosis into a mission—visiting 365 scenic spots across her homeland, documenting each one, and highlighting how difficult such simple pleasures can be for people with disabilities.

What started as a personal journey quickly grew into a movement. As she shared her story on social media, she sparked critical conversations about access, dignity, and environmental justice. By 2023, she had officially launched Good Humans 268 Inc., an orga-





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*Speaker*

**PRIME MINISTER GASTON BROWNE**



*Speaker*

**PROFESSOR C. JUSTIN ROBINSON**



# Carnival Corner



## ABFC Takes Bold Step to Prioritize Public Health, Safety, and Security for Antigua Carnival 2025



As the VIBES and excitement builds for Antigua Carnival 2025, the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has placed public health, safety, and security at the forefront of its planning efforts to ensure a safe and seamless Carnival season for all.

On **Thursday, June 12, 2025**, ABFC spearheaded a high-level stakeholder meeting aimed at enhancing safety protocols and strengthening collaborative action ahead of the Carnival season.

The meeting brought together key agencies including:

- **Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF)**
- **Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (Traffic and Major**

*Events Department)*

- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**
- **Private Security Services**
- **St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC)**
- **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross**
- **National Office of Disaster Services (NODS)**
- **Central Board of Health (CBH)**

*The strategic meeting focused on several critical areas of enhancement, including:*

- **Reactivation of the Carnival Venue Operations Center (VOC)** to coordinate emergency responses in real-time.
- **Installation of updated signage** to clearly mark emergency exits and

improve crowd flow.

- **Implementation of crowd management measures** at the Antigua Recreation Grounds to monitor capacity and allow for rapid, controlled evacuations if needed.
- **Parade strict enforcement** as it relates to Mas Bands adherence to the established safety and security measures along with establishing bi-routes along the Parade routes for emergency vehicles.
- **Deployment of a Mass Evacuation Plan** supported by all emergency response stakeholders.

This unified and proactive approach demonstrates the collective commitment of all parties to deliver a Carnival experience that is not only VIBES and excitement but also responsibly managed and secure.

*"Our duty is to ensure that every participant, whether resident or visitor, not only feels safe but is safe in every angle at all times. This cross collaboration with our Government stakeholders is a testament to our deep commitment to public health and safety,"* said **Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul**, Chairperson of the ABFC.

**The Hon. Daryll S. Matthew**, Minister of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries, echoed the sentiment: *"Safety is a must!"* He continued *"Health, safety, and security are pillars of this administration's mandate, and I commend ABFC and all stakeholder's who were present at this integral meeting for their unwavering commitment in ensuring that Carnival 2025 is free of incidents."*

ABFC will continue to engage stakeholders and the wider public in the coming weeks as it rolls out operational updates leading up to the official start of **Antigua Carnival 2025 – Itz A Vibe!**



## Ministry Invites Applications for Elderly Care Assistant Positions

The Department of Family & Social Services, under the Ministry of Social & Urban Transformation, is inviting applications for the position of Elderly Care Assistant. This recruitment forms part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen support systems for older adults across Antigua and Barbuda.

The position calls for individuals who are passionate about elder care and committed to providing high-quality, compassionate service. Elderly Care Assistants play an essential role in supporting the daily needs, comfort, and dignity of senior citizens within the community and care-based settings.

**Minimum Qualifications:** Applicants must possess the following:

- Secondary School Certificate
- Geriatric Certificate or Elderly Care Training

Interested persons are encouraged to submit their applications via email to:

□ [feona.charles-richards@ab.gov.ag](mailto:feona.charles-richards@ab.gov.ag)

□ [social.transformation@ab.gov.ag](mailto:social.transformation@ab.gov.ag)

For more information, contact the Ministry at: □ (268) 562-6758 / 462-4701.

The Ministry welcomes dedicated and qualified individuals to take part in this important initiative aimed at enhancing the lives of our elderly citizens.



### We are Hiring

**Join the department of Family & Social Services  
under the Ministry of Social & Urban  
Transformation**



### Positions

- Elderly Care Assistant



### Qualifications

- Secondary School certificate
- Geriatric Certificate Training/Elderly Care

**Applications should be sent to the following emails:**

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- [social.transformation@ab.gov.ag](mailto:social.transformation@ab.gov.ag)

1268-562-6758/462-4701

# Regional News

## Former prime ministers named to board to modernise UWI infrastructure



The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, has announced the formation of a distinguished advisory board to oversee the Mona Infrastructure Restoration Fund (MIRF), an initiative aimed at upgrading the campus's aging infrastructure and facilities.

The board will be co-chaired by Patrick Hylton, former President and CEO of NCB Financial Group, and Minna Israel, a former banker and Special Advisor on Resource and Development to the UWI Vice-Chancellor.

Members include former Prime Ministers PJ Patterson and Bruce Golding; Sir George Alleyne, former UWI Chancellor; Patricia Francis, former Executive Director of the International Trade Centre

and Chair of the Jamaica International Financial Services Authority; Karen Jones, CEO of Net Impact; Joseph M Matalon, Chairman of the ICD Group of Companies; and Dr Adrian Stokes, CEO of Quantas Capital.

Ex-officio members comprise Professor Densil A Williams, Principal and Pro Vice -Chancellor; Dr Donovan Stanberry, Campus Registrar; Catherine Parks Thwaites, Bursar; and Peter Glegg, Legal Officer.

The MIRF Campaign Secretariat, managed by the Office of the Campus Principal in collaboration with the Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement Division, will monitor campaign progress and outcomes.

At the inaugural board

meeting held recently at the Jamaica Pegasus, Professor Williams emphasized the urgent need to revitalize the Mona Campus, highlighting that many key facilities, including lecture theatres, are over 40 years old.

Ranked among the top five per cent of universities worldwide, UWI aspires to modernize its physical infrastructure to match its academic excellence. "We must create a world-class environment that attracts the brightest minds from Jamaica and beyond," said Professor Williams.

In the coming weeks, the university will share opportunities for alumni, philanthropists, corporate partners, and the diaspora to contribute to this critical national initiative. (*Loop Caribbean*)



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# Regional News

PAGE 19

## UWI engineering student Ricardo Harrison develops model to detect diabetic retinopathy



Final-year engineering student at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Ricardo Harrison, has developed a model to detect diabetic retinopathy (DR), using artificial intelligence (AI)-powered computer vision.

Harrison said the solution is intended for low-resource hospitals, as the typical diagnostic machines are large, expensive and unportable.

He further shared that DR is a leading cause of blindness, especially in the Caribbean, where access to specialised healthcare is limited.

“A lot of Jamaicans and Caribbean people, in general, tend to not be aware that the amount of sugar that they intake tends to affect their vision later on. So, what my project really aims at doing is to provide a solution for hospitals to detect diabetic retinopathy at a more cost-effective way,” Harrison said.

His project improves upon existing solutions by offering a lightweight,

locally deployable system with a user-friendly interface designed for non-specialist healthcare workers.

“When the enclosure is placed over the head, there is a 20D lens on the inside. So, what the 20D lens does is that it zooms in on the retina. It has a magnification of 3.3 times,” he explained.

Thereafter, using the mobile application he created, a photo of the retina is taken using a phone camera.

“There is an AI model that I created that I hosted on Google. So, after the photo is taken, it shows in the app. If the photo is clear enough, the app will say it’s clear enough and you can go ahead and upload. If it’s not clear enough, it would prompt you to retake another photo. So, if it’s clear enough, you click on upload and upload it to the server,” he detailed.

The server then analyses the image and picks out certain details in the image to tell whether it shows signs of diabetic retinopathy.

It tells the level of severity – mild, moderate, proliferative or severe – and returns a diagnosis to the app.

“It takes time off the healthcare professional’s hand and it reduces the money being spent on very expensive devices,” Harrison shared.

To further support diabetic healthcare, the system also includes a patient monitoring feature that tracks heart rate and body temperature, providing a more comprehensive health assessment.

Based on the performance of the entire system, Harrison said it is approximately 78 per cent ready for integration in a clinical setting.

The project was guided by proposers from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom, Gerardo Loza and Nikita Greenidge, and supervised by Head of Biomedical Engineering at UWI Mona, Sasha-Gay Wright. (*Loop Caribbean*)

# Regional News



## Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs probably won’t testify as defence says its case could be less than 2 days



The possibility that music mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs might testify at his federal sex trafficking trial all but vanished Tuesday after his lawyer predicted a defence presentation lasting as little as two days and a judge said jurors could begin deliberations as early as next week.

Attorney Marc Agnifilo offered the hint when Judge Arun Subramanian asked him for an estimate on the length of the defence case, and the attorney said their presentation could last less than two days — but not more than five.

If Combs testified, it was likely his testimony would take longer than a week. Testimony by two of his former girlfriends consumed two of the trial’s six weeks.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges. He has been jailed at a federal lockup in Brooklyn since his September arrest at a Manhattan hotel.

Assistant US Attorney Maurene Comey said prosecutors would rest as early as Wednesday and no later

than Friday morning.

The estimates were provided Tuesday after the irate judge scolded prosecutors and defence lawyers, saying information about a closed court proceeding involving a juror last Friday had leaked to a media outlet.

The judge said he believed someone who was at the sealed court hearing violated his secrecy order. In the future, Subramanian said, he would hold Comey and Agnifilo responsible for any slipups, and any violations of his orders could result in

criminal contempt penalties “at the most extreme level.”

“This is the only warning I will give,” he said.

Meanwhile, prosecutors resumed showing jurors evidence Tuesday of text messages, phone calls, hotel records to support charges that Combs oversaw a racketeering conspiracy that utilized his employees and associates and his stature in the hip-hop industry to help him control and abuse women, including two former girlfriends.

Ex-girlfriends Cassandra “Cassie” Ventura and a woman who testified under the pseudonym “Jane” told jurors that Combs used threats and monetary incentives to coerce them into frequent multi-day sex marathons where Combs watched, directed and sometimes filmed them engaging with male sex workers.

Defence lawyers say prosecutors were trying to criminalize consenting sex between adults by targeting Combs.

Ventura’s relationship with Combs lasted from 2007 to 2018 while Jane dated him from 2021 until his arrest last fall. (*Loop Caribbean*)



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**DR. MICHELLE ALLEN**



*Speaker*

**ENRIQUE ZAPATA**

## Iran asks its people to delete WhatsApp from their devices

Iranian state television on Tuesday afternoon urged the country's public to remove the messaging platform WhatsApp from their smartphones, alleging the app — without offering specific evidence — gathered user information to send to Israel.

In a statement, WhatsApp said it was “concerned these false reports will be an excuse for our services to be blocked at a time when people need them the most.” WhatsApp uses end-to-end encryption, meaning a service provider in the middle can't read a message.

“We do not track your precise location, we don't keep logs of who everyone is messaging and we do not track the personal messages people are sending one another,” it added. “We do not provide bulk information to any government.”

End-to-end encryption means that messages are scrambled so that only the



sender and recipient can see them. If anyone else intercepts the message, all they will see is a garble that can't be unscrambled without the key.

Gregory Falco, an assistant professor of engineering at Cornell University and cybersecurity expert, said it's been demonstrated that it's possible to understand metadata about WhatsApp that does not get encrypted.

“So you can understand things about how people

are using the app and that's been a consistent issue where people have not been interested in engaging with WhatsApp for that (reason),” he said.

Another issue is data sovereignty, Falco added, where data centres hosting WhatsApp data from a certain country are not necessarily located in that country. It's more than feasible, for instance, that WhatsApp's data from Iran is not hosted in Iran.

“Countries need to house their data in-country and process the data in-country with their own algorithms. Because it's really hard increasingly to trust the global network of data infrastructure,” he said.

WhatsApp is owned by Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram.

Iran has blocked access to various social media platforms over the years but many people in the country use proxies and virtual private networks, or VPNs, to access them. It banned WhatsApp and Google Play in 2022 during mass protests against the government over the death of a woman held by the country's morality police. That ban was lifted late last year.

WhatsApp had been one of Iran's most popular messaging apps besides Instagram and Telegram. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)





## UK lawmakers vote to decriminalise abortion amid concern about the prosecution of women



British lawmakers voted Tuesday to decriminalise abortion in England and Wales after a lawmaker argued that it was cruel to prosecute women for ending a pregnancy.

The House of Commons approved an amendment to a broader crime bill that would prevent women from being criminally punished under an antiquated law.

Labour MP Tonia Antoniazzi, the Labour member of Parliament who introduced one of the amendments, said the change was needed because police have investigated more than 100 women for suspected illegal abortions over the past five years, including some who suffered natural miscarriages and stillbirths.

“This piece of legislation will only take women out of the criminal justice system because they are vulnerable and they need our help,” she said. “Just what public interest is this serving? This is not justice, it is cruelty and it has got to end.”

The amendment passed 379-137. The House of Commons will now need to pass the crime bill, which is expected, before it goes to the House of Lords, where it can be delayed but

not blocked.

Under current law, doctors can legally carry out abortions in England, Scotland and Wales up to 24 weeks, and beyond that under special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger. Abortion in Northern Ireland was decriminalised in 2019.

Changes in the law implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic allow women to receive abortion pills through the mail and terminate their own pregnancies at home within the first 10 weeks.

That has led to a handful of widely publicised cases in which women were prosecuted for illegally obtaining abortion pills and using them to end their own pregnancies after 24 weeks or more.

Anti-abortion groups opposed the measures, arguing it would open the door to abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy.

“Unborn babies will have any remaining protection stripped away, and women will be left at the mercy of abusers,” said Alithea Williams, public policy manager for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children,

which describes itself as the UK’s biggest pro-life campaign group.

The debate came after recent prosecutions have galvanised support to repeal parts of the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act.

In one case, a mother of three was sentenced to more than two years in prison in 2023 for medically inducing an abortion about eight months into her pregnancy.

Carla Foster, 45, was released about a month later by an appeals court that reduced her sentence. Judge Victoria Sharp said that case called for “compassion, not punishment” and there was no useful purpose in jailing her.

Last month, a jury acquitted Nicola Packer on a charge of unlawfully self-administering poison or a noxious thing with intent to procure a miscarriage. Packer, who took abortion medicine when she was about 26 weeks pregnant, testified that she did not know she had been pregnant more than 10 weeks.

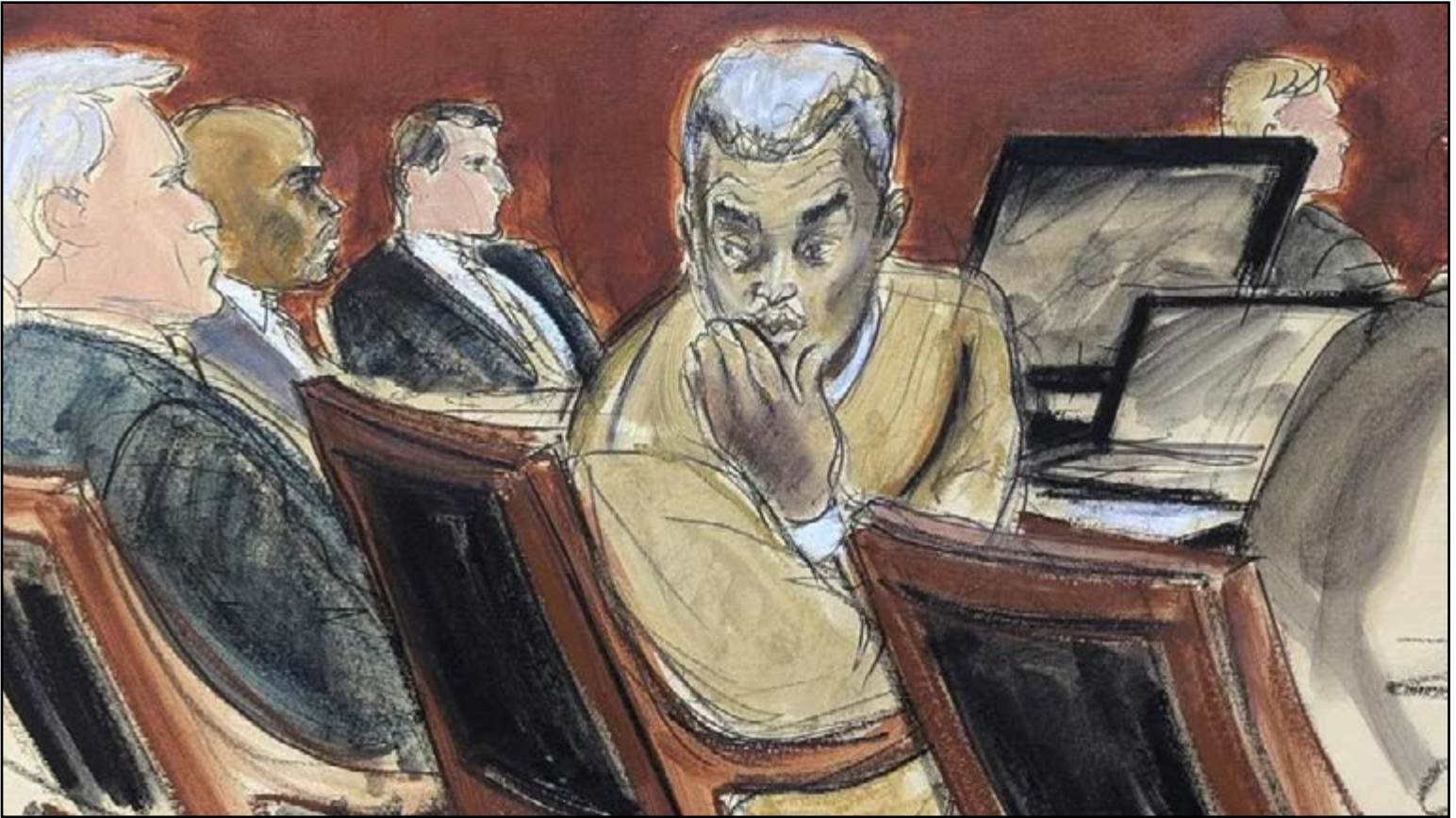
Supporters of the bill said it was a landmark reform that would keep women from going to prison for ending their pregnancy.

“At a time when we’re seeing roll-backs on reproductive rights, most notably in the United States, this crucial milestone in the fight for reproductive rights sends a powerful message that our lawmakers are standing up for women,” said Louise McCudden of MSI Reproductive Choices.

A second amendment that would have gone even further than Antoniazzi’s proposal, barring the prosecution of medical professionals and others who help women abort their foetuses, did not get to a vote.

A competing Conservative measure that would have required an in-person appointment for a pregnant woman to get abortion pills was defeated. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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Ventura’s relationship with Combs lasted from 2007 to 2018 while Jane dated him from 2021 until his arrest last fall. (*Loop Caribbean*)





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# Sports News



## Winning starts for Sea View Farm and El Hombre in ASCFL

Sea View Farm and El Hombre made winning starts to their campaigns in the All Saints Community Football League (ASCFL) on Tuesday evening.

Sea View Farm snatched a 3-2 victory against Attackers in the first game of a double-header at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Shamoi Andrew scored in the 30th minute to give Sea View Farm a one-nil half-time lead.

Michael Stowe snatched an equalizer for Attackers with a conversion in the 37th minute. Attackers took a 2-1 lead in the 55th minute when Wilton Rhodes converted a penalty kick.

However, Jaheem Sheppard produced two late strikes to snatch victory for Sea View Farm. Sheppard scored Sea View Farm's equalizer with a 65th-minute conversion.

Sheppard then scored his second goal of the match in

the 70th minute to snatch victory for Sea View Farm.

El Hombre launched their campaign with a 3-0 victory against Overdose in the second game of Tuesday's double-header.

Kemol Walsh opened the scoring with a third-minute conversion to give El Hombre a one-nil half-time lead.

Two late goals by Courtney Clarke in the 68th minute and Dia Martin in the 71st minute wrapped up victory for El Hombre.

The All Saints Community Football League will continue with another double-header on Thursday (today).

Overdose will take on the Attackers at 6:15 pm, and Freeman's Village will clash with Yorkshire at 7:30 pm.

Like last year, 12 teams, which are divided into two groups of six teams, are contesting the All Saints Community Football League.

## Dietz says Deandra Dottin undergoing rehab in Canada



**Deandra Dottin**

West Indies superstar all-rounder Deandra Dottin is now living in Canada and is undergoing rehabilitation work from there.

This is the world from Shane Deitz, the head coach of the West Indies women's team, who made the disclosure on Tuesday evening.

He was speaking after the defeat in the third One-Day International at the Three Ws Oval at the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies.

Dottin suffered a major injury in the Women's Indian Premier League earlier this year and has been out of action since then.

She missed the ICC World

Cup Qualifiers in Pakistan where the West Indies failed to secure qualification, the tour of England earlier this month and the ongoing series against the Proteas in Barbados.

Deitz gave an update. "She is injured, and she is recovering. She is in Canada where she lives. She won't be available for the T20I. Her rehab is going according to plan. They are focusing on The Hundred and then the Women's Caribbean Premier League," Deitz said.

Dottin is one of the most successful players in West Indies history with 287 matches since her debut in 2008, scoring 6789 runs and taking 150 wickets.

She is currently at 12th position in the ICC Women's T20I rankings.



## Sir Andy slams 50th anniversary tribute to 1975 World Cup win



**Sir Andy Roberts**

Legendary West Indies fast bowler Sir Andy Roberts has expressed disappointment over the timing and structure of the planned celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the West Indies' historic 1975 ICC Men's World Cup triumph.

Speaking on the popular Barbadian radio programme *Mason and Guest* on Tuesday night, the Antiguan icon said he was not overly enthusiastic about attending the event, which forms part of the 8th annual CWI/WIPA Awards Gala to be held on Sunday, June 22, at the Wyndham Grand Barbados Sam Lord's Castle.

"To be honest—no, not really," the 74-year-old Roberts said when asked if he was looking forward to the trip.

"50 years after the fact? You're telling me that's when you remember me? I'll soon be in my grave."

Roberts, who was a vital part of the Clive Lloyd-led side that lifted the trophy at Lord's on June 21, 1975, said the belated nature of the recognition signals that the achievement—and those who delivered it—were long forgotten.

"You think anyone should wait 50 years to be honoured?" he asked. "The honour should've come in 1975. May-



**The 1975 West Indies Cricket World Cup Squad**

be a couple weeks after. But it means that we were forgotten."

The gala, jointly organized by Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA), is designed to honour both the current stars of West Indies cricket and the pioneers who helped shape its legacy.

The event will be televised across the region and will formally commemorate the golden jubilee of West Indies' first-ever World Cup victory.

CWI President Dr. Kishore Shallow described the event as a landmark occasion.

"The CWI/WIPA Awards Gala is a significant event that highlights the accomplishments of our players," he said.

"It is vital that we create platforms to honour their dedication and hard work, while also paying tribute to the rich legacy of our cricketing heroes from the past."

WIPA President and CEO Wavell Hinds echoed that sentiment. "We not only celebrate the present generation of players... but also honour the past achievements that have paved the way for today's talent," he said.

But for Sir Andy, who took 202 Test

wickets and 87 ODI wickets, the format of the tribute is far from ideal. He believes the 1975 World Cup squad deserves a stand-alone celebration, rather than being folded into a broader awards ceremony primarily aimed at recognising current players.

"This should have been a West Indies Cricket Board initiative. Not the players' (association)," he said.

"We're trying to piggyback on the players' association. The current players are being honoured, and now they're trying to jump on the bandwagon."

Despite host Andrew Mason's suggestion that the weekend gala could still be considered a "grand occasion," Roberts remained firm.

"I wouldn't say grand occasion—it's an occasion," he replied. "But I think the calibre of players who played in 1975 deserve a little more than what honour they're getting."

While the event is expected to be a glittering celebration of West Indies cricket, Sir Andy's candid reflections serve as a reminder that timing, respect, and context matter when honouring legacy—and that for some legends, 50 years may be too long to wait.



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## Sabina Park gets J\$75 million lighting upgrade



### Lights on at Sabina Park in Jamaica (Sportsmax).

Sabina Park is ready to step into the spotlight—literally—as the historic venue prepares to host its first-ever day-night Test match when Australia tours the Caribbean next month.

The Government of Jamaica has completed the installation of upgraded LED floodlights at Sabina Park, a J\$75 million investment aimed at reviving the venue's relevance in international cricket.

The switch was officially flipped by Prime Minister Andrew Holness, marking a symbolic moment for Jamaican cricket and setting

the stage for the highly anticipated pink-ball Test between the West Indies and Australia in July.

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange, hailed the project as a transformative step in Jamaica's cricket development strategy.

"These lights are going to make a world of difference," she said. "They will ignite a series of cricket events that will be held (at Sabina Park) both during the day and at night."

The upgraded lights address a long-standing deficiency at the venue, which

previously lacked the required brightness for day-night international fixtures.

Jamaica Cricket Association (JCA) President Dr. Donovan Bennett noted the importance of the upgrade, explaining that without the lights, "we would not be an attractive venue."

"We have international commitments the second week in July," he said. "We have seven nights of cricket here... and the Test match (against Australia) is going to be a pink-ball match. So the lights are very essential to be able to pull that off."

The lighting upgrade is part of a broader government-backed effort to modernize the iconic venue. Minister Grange also revealed that a new digital scoreboard is currently being installed, the result of a diplomatic partnership with India.

"After discussions with the Jamaica Cricket Association, we approached the

Government of India," she said.

"Prime Minister Holness visited India and further discussions were held with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi... It's materialised. We're getting a new scoreboard."

The scoreboard, a gift from the Indian government, complements the lighting project and is expected to be fully operational by the end of June. Most of the scoreboard panels are already in the island, and installation is underway.

Beyond the infrastructure improvements at Sabina Park, the ministry is also investing J\$100 million over three years to support grassroots and school cricket.

"Forty out of that 100 million has already been disbursed," Minister Grange confirmed, "and we've started spending from those funds in collaboration with the Jamaica Cricket Association."

*con't from pg30*



opening bowlers; we have good death bowlers; we have some fantastic all-rounders, so we feel we have many

boxes ticked, which is making sure we have cover in all areas of the game."

The players will assemble in Antigua for camp on August 8.

"We are looking forward to getting everyone together just before the tournament starts. We will have a little camp to get focused with our analysis team, physios, and backroom staff to get us in the right place and the right mindset to hit the ground running," Nixon added.

Falcons squad: Imad Wasim, Shakib Al Hasan, Fabian Allen, Naveen Ul Haq, Obed McCoy, Justin Greaves, Bevon Jacobs, Jayden Seales, Al-

lah Ghazanfar, Rahkeem Cornwall, Odean Smith, Jewel Andrew, Shamar Springer, Amir Jangoo, Karima Gore, Kevin Wickham, and Joshua James.

Like last year's debut season, the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will face the neighbouring St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at Warner Park in the opening game of the 2025 CPL on Thursday, August 14.

The Falcons will then play five matches at home at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua against the other five franchises in the CPL.

## Falcons announce squad for 2025 CPL



The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons have completed their 17-man squad for the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), which will commence in August.

The Falcons head coach Paul Nixon officially announced the squad during a live broadcast of the Pointe on de Streetz programme with Vernon Springer on Pointe FM Radio on Wednesday.

The Falcons have retained all-rounder Imad Wasim of Pakistan as one of their five overseas-based players in the squad for the August 14 to September 21 Caribbean Premier League.

The four new overseas-based players that are signed by the Falcons are all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan of Bangladesh, hard-hitting batsman Bevon Jacobs of New Zealand, and the Afghanistan duo of fast bowler Naveen Ul Haq and off-spinner Allah Ghazanfar.

The Falcons also traded for Antiguan all-rounder Rakeem "Jimbo" Cornwall and Vincentian left-arm fast bowler Obed McCoy.

Cornwall and McCoy have moved from the Barbados Royals to the Fal-

cons, while Brandon King made the switch in the opposite direction, joining the Royals for the upcoming season.

The Falcons retained young Antiguan batting sensation Jewel Andrew but released compatriots Kelvin Pitman and Kofi James.

The Falcons also retained all-rounders Fabian Allen, Justin Greaves, and Shamar Springer.

Antiguan all-rounder Karima Gore is one of six players who were recently drafted to complete the squad.

The others are Jamaican all-rounder Odean Smith, Trinidadian all-rounder Joshua James, batsman Amir Jangoo, and fast bowler Jayden Seales, and all-rounder Kevin Wickham of Barbados.

Seales said he is looking forward to representing the Falcons in this year's CPL.

"I am pleased to be a part of the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons. I was in England when the coach Paul Nixon called and told me the Falcons are going to pick me up," Seales stated.

"I was really pleased about it because I was really looking forward to

getting into a new franchise this year and getting some game time under my belt. So I am really proud and pleased to be a part of the Falcons team."

Legendary Antiguan and West Indian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose has also been retained as a member of the Falcons coaching staff.

"White ball cricket, especially T20 cricket, you have got to have a great balanced side. You need experience and youth, which we have got, and we have some fantastic overseas players," Nixon said.

"We are looking for our overseas-based players to win the majority of the matches by putting in a lot of the match-winning performances. The younger guys, the pressure is not really on them because they are growing and leaning their game, and it's a more long-term vision for them, but we know they are capable of producing match-winning performances as well."

"We have a great blend. The ball spins in the West Indies, and we have some wonderful spinners; we have

**con't on page 29**