

# Victory for Climate Justice

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**Young Antiguan and Barbudan Women Shine in Transformative LEAP 2025 Experience**

**African Dress Day is Friday 25 July, 2025**

## Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS welcome historic advisory opinion from ICJ



Antigua and Barbuda and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have welcomed a ruling in their favour by the International Court of Justice on the issue of climate justice.

Antigua and Barbuda, as a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) gave its full support to the organization as it brought the matter before the ICJ for an opinion. On Wednesday, the ICJ gave an Advisory Opinion affirming that climate harm is not just unjust, it is harmful.

The following is a press release issued by AOSIS:

### **A Victory for Climate Justice: AOSIS Welcomes Landmark ICJ Ruling**

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) welcomes today's historic Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) — a glob-

al affirmation that climate harm is not just unjust, it is unlawful.

This ruling is a testament to what small states can achieve through principled diplomacy, collective advocacy, and legal innovation. In 2019, 27 Pacific law students at the University of the South Pacific in Vanuatu planted the seed of an idea: that the world's highest court could help protect the rights of nations most exposed to the climate crisis. That idea became a movement — led by youth, championed by Vanuatu, and supported by civil society, legal experts, and the solidarity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In 2023, over 130 countries co-sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution calling on the ICJ to clarify States' legal duties on climate change. Today, that initiative comes full circle — delivering a ruling that recognizes and reinforces key principles that AOSIS

and our members have long upheld.

*“This opinion reflects the strength of collective advocacy and the hope that has driven this initiative from the very beginning. It is the result of sustained advocacy by Pacific youth, legal experts from vulnerable nations, and States that chose not to remain silent. The ICJ's findings demonstrate that moral clarity and legal authority can reinforce one another. This ruling must serve as a foundation — not a conclusion. We now call on all States to act with renewed urgency and ambition, in accordance with their legal obligations and the demands of justice.”* — Ambassador Ilana Victorya Seid, Chair of AOSIS and Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations.

### **Key legal findings welcomed by AOSIS**



## 1. A binding 1.5°C obligation:

The Court affirmed that the 1.5°C target is not merely a political aspiration — it is a legally binding obligation, based on the Paris Agreement and subsequent decisions of its governing bodies. This is a revolutionary development. For SIDS, holding the line at 1.5°C is essential for continued viability.

## 2. The duty to cooperate:

The Court reaffirmed that States have a customary legal obligation to cooperate in addressing climate change. Voluntary action is not enough. Climate justice demands coordinated, sustained, and legally mandated cooperation across borders.

## 3. Maritime rights and sea-level rise:

AOSIS strongly supports the Court's affirmation that sea-level rise cannot invalidate existing maritime baselines and entitlements. This provides long-awaited legal certainty to island nations whose territorial integrity

is threatened by rising seas.

## 4. Continuity of statehood:

The Court's opinion upholds the principle that States do not lose their legal identity or rights due to climate-induced territorial loss. This aligns with AOSIS's long-standing position that sovereignty endures — and must be preserved — even amidst profound physical changes.

## 5. Submission of NDCs representing parties' highest possible ambition

AOSIS has continuously called for the submission of enhanced, highly ambitious NDCs by September 2025, and the AO delineates that "each party must do its utmost to ensure that the NDCs it puts forward represents its highest possible ambition in order to realize the objectives of the agreement". Furthermore, we welcome the decision that the standard of NDCs assessment will vary depending on historical GHG emissions, and level of development and national circumstances.

A new chapter in international law Small Island Developing States are often called the moral voice of the climate movement. Today, we have demonstrated that our role is also legal, strategic, and enduring. The international legal system can be complex — but SIDS have shown how to navigate it with vision, determination, and skill.

This opinion is not the end of the road. It must now inform action across every level — including negotiations under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, implementation of national climate policies, and interpretation of rights and obligations in courts around the world.

In an increasingly unstable world, international law offers what SIDS need most: certainty, predictability, and resilience. We will carry this ruling into every negotiation, every courtroom, and every call for justice. For small islands, this is not just about climate — it is about our future. And we will never stop defending it.



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## The UWI Five Islands congratulates COBE Honorary Fellow on election as President of the International Seabed Authority



**Campus Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Prof. Justin Robinson,**

The UWI Five Islands Campus congratulates Ambassador Dwight Gardiner, honorary fellow at the Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy (COBE) at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus on his election as president of the 30th Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (ISA). Ambassador Gardiner who serves as the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the ISA was elected during 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly in Kingston, Jamaica this week.

Gardiner was chosen for the one-year term during the ISA Assembly meeting which is taking place from July 21-25. His election comes as the ISA faces complex challenges related to its mandate of protecting the world's oceans and marine resources. As president, Gardiner will oversee the general direction of the institution and work to ensure countries adhere to principles of responsible deep-sea mining. The organization, established in 1982 under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, regulates mineral-related activities in international waters beyond national jurisdictions. For Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Antigua and Barbuda, Gardiner's election holds particular significance as these islands depend

heavily on ocean resources for economic survival while facing unique vulnerabilities from climate change and rising sea levels.

Campus Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Prof. Justin Robinson, said Gardiner's elevation helps position COBE as a regional Centre of Excellence, further propelling The UWI as a world-class university. "Ambassador Gardiner's years of vast experience coupled with this new role is important as he is now even better positioned to assist in the knowledge and research agenda of COBE in the areas related to our ocean spaces especially as small island states like those of the Caribbean are facing more climate and economic challenges," he noted.

Executive Director of COBE Dr. Branson Belle noted: "We are extremely

proud that our honorary fellow, Ambassador Gardiner has been elected to this leadership role. Deep-sea scientific research is a key prerequisite to understanding life and the impacts of human activity on the abyss". He noted the work between COBE, and the ISA has been ongoing and Amb. Gardiner has been instrumental in this collaboration.

The Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and Blue Economy has been advancing regional discussions through its partnership fund with the ISA focused on developing Caribbean economies through deep-sea research. In November 2024, representatives from each CARICOM country gathered at the Five Islands campus for a workshop to develop a roadmap for Caribbean-focused deep-sea research.


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# Local News

## Ministry of Health Reaffirms Commitment to Establishing Dedicated Sickle Cell Unit



The Ministry of Health says it remains steadfast in its commitment to establishing a dedicated Sickle Cell Unit to provide comprehensive care for persons affected by sickle cell disease.

As part of the ongoing progress toward this goal, Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph, Minister of State, Senator Michael Joseph, Director of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center Dr. Shivon Belle-Javis, and President of the Antigua and Barbuda Sickle Cell Association Dr. Edda Hadeed, recently conducted a site visit to the future unit location at the IDC facility.

During the visit, the delegation toured the interim site, which is planned to include five patient rooms, a consultation room, and a staff room, supporting primarily daytime inpatient management.

The unit will be staffed by specially trained physicians, nurses, and clerical personnel who will receive focused training locally and through international collaborations.

The group also visited a nearby workshop where sickle cell patients were engaged in craft activities that provide therapeutic engagement and income opportunities. Plans are underway to showcase these crafts during upcoming cultural events such as Art Week and Heritage Quay, fostering patient empowerment and community awareness.

Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph reiterated the Government's dedication:

"Our administration is committed to enhancing healthcare services for all

Antiguans and Barbudans. The establishment of this Sickle Cell Unit is a key priority, and we are making steady progress to ensure that persons affected by sickle cell disease receive the care and support they deserve."

Dr. Shivon Belle-Javis highlighted the comprehensive approach envisioned for the unit:

"This Sickle Cell Unit will be more than a pain management center; it will provide education, preventative care, and anticipatory guidance to improve patients' quality of life through compassionate and holistic care."

This initiative demonstrates the Ministry's ongoing focus on improving healthcare access and outcomes for the sickle cell community in Antigua and Barbuda.



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## Young Antiguan and Barbudan Women Shine in Transformative LEAP 2025 Experience

The Ministry of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries and the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission (London) proudly announce the successful completion of the 2025 LEAP (Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Action Programme) for a second year. LEAP awarded scholarships to four young women and an adult educator from Antigua and Barbuda to participate in their world-renowned female leadership programme in Jersey, Channel Islands in July 2025. LEAP creates opportunities for young women to develop and sharpen their leadership and entrepreneurial skills while embracing their role as global citizens.

The Antiguan and Barbudan LEAP cohort comprised 14-year-old Alleah Alfred from the St. Anthony's Secondary School, 14-year-old Gabrielle Tuckett of the Antigua Girls' High School, 16-year-old Janica Adams, a recent graduate of the Antigua Girls' High School and 18-year-old Miya Joseph, a recent graduate of the Antigua State College. They were accompanied by Dr E. Jonah Greene, Deputy Director of Education, who served as a mentor on the LEAP Programme for a second consecutive year.

Miya Joseph, whose team led the winning pitch for The Money Mindset, a financial literacy website for

children aged 8–14 said: "LEAP changed how I see leadership. It is about purpose, not position. We wanted to make money skills fun and accessible and we did." Miya's project received investor interest and a €500 funding offer, with follow-up discussions underway.

Alleah Alfred, creator of the marine education game SeaStudy, shared: "LEAP showed me that just being real and using my voice is enough. Being from Antigua doesn't make me small, it makes me unique."

Janica Adams noted: "LEAP helped me understand how culture and collaboration build stronger leadership. I'm aiming higher now, especially around sustainability and education."

Gabrielle Tuckett reflected: "LEAP helped me find confidence in global spaces. I'm leaving more grounded and committed to serving my community."

Alison Morgan, CEO of the Jersey College for Girls (JCG) Foundation, which hosts the LEAP programme commented: "Carl Howarth, Director of the JCG Foundation, and I were delighted to welcome four students from Antigua and Barbuda to Jersey for LEAP 2025. They showed such enthusiasm for the programme and were a credit to their country, participating fully and develop-





# Local News



who delivered an inspirational graduation speech and presented certificates to all 52 participants. We look forward to deepening our partnership with Antigua and Barbuda in the future.”

Dr. E. Jonah Greene remarked, “They were challenged to think globally, not just as Antiguan, but as change-makers solving real-world problems. They learned that business can be a tool for good”.

Speaking of the growing relationship between Jersey and Antigua and Barbuda, Minister Matthew reflected on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between our two countries noting: “We are seeing the long-term benefits of our international partnerships. The LEAP programme is more than just an exchange—it is a gateway for our young people to build confidence, leadership skills, and a global mindset. These

young women represented Antigua and Barbuda with distinction, and I am proud of their accomplishments. I commend Miya Josphe or her winning pitch and look forward to seeing LEAP 2026 and beyond”.

Following 12 days of immersive training and networking in Jersey, the delegates returned to London and continued their development through a series of inspiring engagements. Highlights included a leadership session facilitated by the Commonwealth Secretariat’s Youth Programme, a guided “Hidden Caribbean and African Tour” at the Victoria & Albert Museum, a reflective mentorship dinner hosted by High Commissioner Hill and supporting the Antigua and Barbuda cricket team at the African Caribbean Cricket Festival in Leicester.

ing excellent business ideas. We were treated to calypso singing, and two of them even joined an international opera singer on stage for

a trio performance. It was also a privilege to welcome Dr. Greene, who provided invaluable mentorship, and High Commissioner Hill,






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## THE PDV HOUR

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**(JELLY BEANS)**



## Chinese Embassy and National Public Library Host Themed Photo Exhibition: “Remembering History, Cherishing Peace”



The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Antigua and Barbuda, in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda National Public Library, this week hosted the opening ceremony of the themed photo exhibition titled “Remembering History, Cherishing Peace.” The event commemorated the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Her Excellency Ambassador Zhang Yanling and Library Director Mrs. Ryllis Mannix delivered remarks and jointly unveiled the exhibition. More than 100 attendees including youth campers, educators, and members of the public partic-



ipated in the event. In her remarks, Ambassador Zhang highlighted the historical significance of the 80th anniversary. She emphasized that the Chinese people made enormous sacrifices to achieve victory as the main Eastern battlefield of World War II. She pointed out the importance of remembering history and called on the

international community to uphold peace, mutual respect, and cooperation. “History is the best textbook,” she stated, “Only by learning from history can we shape a better future.” Mrs. Mannix reaffirmed the relevance of the exhibition, noting that the victory symbolized the resilience of the Chinese people and the strength

of global unity during wartime. She encouraged young people to learn from the past and commit themselves to building a peaceful and prosperous future. “The triumphs on the Chinese battlefield played a key role in the global fight against fascism,” she noted. “Standing at this new historical juncture, we must honour the legacy of our forebears and draw strength from history.” The exhibition provided a valuable educational opportunity for young visitors, who explored the historical images and narratives and also to continue to foster mutual understanding and cultural appreciation between China and Antigua and Barbuda.



## Police Issue Safety Advisory and Guidelines Ahead of Carnival 2025



As the nation prepares to celebrate Carnival 2025, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is implementing comprehensive safety and security measures to ensure the protection of all residents and visitors during the festive season.

The Police Administration has announced an island-wide security strategy, which includes increased police patrols, random stop-and-search operations, and heightened public safety protocols. A key component of the initiative is the strict enforcement of a “No Weapons” policy.

Members of the public are reminded that possession of firearms or any sharp or blunt objects, including knives, machetes, cleavers, scissors, pieces of iron, or wood, is strictly prohibited and will result in the arrest of anyone found in possession of any such item.

Additional measures will also be in place to prevent break-ins and thefts from vehicles. These proactive steps are part of the police’s broader strategy to maintain law and order throughout the celebrations.

The Police Administration is also urging vendors and bar operators to adhere to all rules and regulations regarding the sale of alcohol and other beverages. The use of glass bottles or cans is strictly prohibited during the Carnival period. The public’s full cooperation and support are critical to ensuring a safe, enjoyable, and incident-free Carnival 2025 for all.

### Public Safety Tips for the Carnival Season

To further minimize risks and enhance personal safety, members of the public are encouraged to follow these important guidelines:

- ☐ Always remain alert and aware of your surroundings.
- ☐ Avoid poorly lit or isolated areas, especially when walking alone at night.
- ☐ Refrain from using headphones playing loud music in public spaces, as this may reduce awareness.
- ☐ Do not display or carry large amounts of cash; use secure payment methods where possible.
- ☐ Be cautious when using ATMs

and never accept assistance from strangers.

- ☐ Be alert for counterfeit currency and report any suspicious transactions or individuals to the police.
- ☐ Always lock your vehicle and avoid leaving valuable items in plain sight.
- ☐ Park in well-lit, secure areas whenever possible.
- ☐ Secure your home properly, especially when you are away and it is unattended.
- ☐ Business owners should ensure they have adequate security measures in place to protect their property.
- ☐ Stay a safe distance from large trucks, music trailers, and heavy vehicles during parades and other street events.
- ☐ Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ☐ Do not leave minors unsupervised at any event or location.
- ☐ Ensure children know their names, addresses, and contact information, and establish a clear meeting point in case of an emergency.
- ☐ Take extra care of the elderly or individuals with special needs during crowded events.

Report any suspicious persons, vehicles, or activities to the police or dial 911 immediately.



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Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

Breakfast served from 7:30am

Games Night - COMING SOON!



## Jam for the Cure for T-Shirt Mas

CIBC Caribbean will be hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Jam for the Cure T-shirt Mas.

This year, Jam for a Cure is moving from being a section of a band in previous years, to hosting the entire production on its own, powered by APUA INET and Cool and Smooth. Music by Flava FM DJs. Lunch will be served at the bank from 12:30 and then we jam down Old Parham Rd to meet the parade.

Now in its 14th year, *Walk for the Cure* remains the bank's flagship fundraising and public awareness campaign across the region, aimed at the fight against cancer. In 2024, it raised XCD \$105,000, and its goal



for 2025 is to reach XCD \$150,000. Once again, CIBC Caribbean will be donating all funds

raised to Breast Friends Antigua and the Oncology Department of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, in support of their life-saving efforts.

CIBC Caribbean is also thanking its Platinum Jam for the Cure sponsors APUA INET and Cool and Smooth and all other sponsors including Epicurean Fine Foods, Mega Distributors and A.W.H. Holdings Ltd.

T-Shirt Mas is this Saturday, 26th July from 3:00 pm. Limited packages remain. Visit CIBC Caribbean on Old Parham Road...COME NOW. Jam for the Cure and support this worthy cause!



## DAILY PROGRAMMING




<b>EARLY VIBRATIONS</b>	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA	
<b>THE RUSH HOUR SHOW</b>	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	6AM-9AM SATURDAYS
<b>TOUCHLINE</b>	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
<b>BAD COMPANY</b>	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
<b>REGGAE INSPIRATION</b>	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
<b>JAH WADADLI</b>	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	





## 2025 UWI FIVE ISLANDS JR. CALYPSO

### UNJUDGED SEGMENTS

5 YRS – 12 YRS

LEADERSHIP – RED JUICE

MOST IMPROVED- ARCHER

MOST IMPROVED – QUEEN B

2<sup>ND</sup> RUNNER UP- KAISO KAL

1<sup>ST</sup> RUNNER UP – CALYPSO LILY

WINNER- RUEZ

### JUDGED SEGMENTS

5YRS – 12YRS

BEST NEW ARTIST – SWEET MELODY

BEST STAGE PERFORMER-SWEET MELODY

2<sup>ND</sup> RUNNER UP- PRINCESS FAITH

1<sup>ST</sup> RUNNER UP – DE ARCHER

WINNER- SWEET MELODY

UNJUDGED SEGMENTS  
13YRS - 19YRS

MOST PUNCTUAL – DI BOSS

MOST HELPFUL – RUEZ

MOST IMPROVED – CALYPSO LILY

BEST NEW ARTIST – KAISO KAL

BEST STAGE PERFORMER- RUEZ

.....  
Ms. Denise Gardiner  
Judges Subcommittee Chair

.....  
Michael Freeland  
Deputy Chair, Festivals Commission

CC: Minister - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries  
Minister of State - Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**  
Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**  
National Festivals Director - National Festivals  
Chairperson - Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission  
Sub-Committee Chair - 2025 Jr Calypso Monarch







## Department of Culture

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CALL FOR DIGITAL ARTISTS – CARIFESTA XV**

The Department of Culture is inviting Antiguan & Barbudan artists to submit digital or digitally adaptable artworks for Code as Canvas—a regional digital gallery and artist talk at CARIFESTA XV, exploring art, technology, memory, and place.

#### **Accepted Media:**

- Digital painting
- Video
- Animation
- Photography
- Digitally adapted traditional media (e.g., drawings, sculpture)

**Theme of the Exhibition:** Code as Canvas: Digital Visions from the Caribbean

**Venue:** Queen's Park Steel Shed, Barbados

**Date:** August 29, 2025 | 5–8 PM

#### **Submission Details**

- Up to 2 works per artist
- One high-res image or video per work
- Include:
  - Artist Name,
  - Title of Work ,
  - Year Created ,
  - Medium, and
  - A Short Description

Selected works will be shown on large LED screens and may be discussed during the artist talk. A local jury will choose up to 10 works for submission. Let's showcase our digital creativity!

**Email:** [varts.culture.ab@gmail.com](mailto:varts.culture.ab@gmail.com)

**Deadline:** July 28, 2025



**CARIFESTA XV**

***“Caribbean Roots, Global Excellence”***





## Department of Culture

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CALL FOR ARTISTS – CARIFESTA XV**

The Department of Culture is inviting Antiguan & Barbudan artists to represent Antigua & Barbuda at CARIFESTA XV in Barbados – Summer 2025!

Visual artists are asked to submit artwork for the regional CARIFESTA XV exhibition; under the Theme: ***Caribbean Roots, Global Excellence***. Submissions will go through a two-stage jury process:

1. Local selection in Antigua & Barbuda
2. Final review in Barbados

**All visual art forms are welcome.**

#### **Submission Details**

- Maximum of 2 two (2) works per artist
  - One high-res image or video per work
  - Include:
    - Artist Name,
    - Title of Work,
    - Size ,
    - Medium/Media, and
    - Estimated Value of Work
1. Submission Deadline: **July 28th , 2025**
  2. Notification of Selection: **July 30th, 2025**
  3. Submit to: [varts.culture.ab@gmail.com](mailto:varts.culture.ab@gmail.com)

#### **Important Notes:**

1. Selected works must be prepared for shipping by the artist.
2. Size and weight restrictions will apply due to shipping limitations.

**Let's showcase the talent of Antigua & Barbuda to the region!**



**CARIFESTA XV**

***“Caribbean Roots, Global Excellence”***



## Top Trinidadian influencer Certified Sampson is here for Carnival '25

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority is giving a big Antigua and Barbuda to welcome to top influencer/entertainer, Certified Sampson from Trinidad and Tobago to the country for **Antigua Carnival 2025**.

In this venture, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority teamed up with popular mas band, Myst Carnival, to invite Certified Sampson to Antigua Carnival during which he will go by the name; Chief Vibes Officer.

In a social media post, the ABTA emphasized that as one of the Caribbean's most dynamic and entertaining personalities, Jamel Sampson, widely known as Certified Sampson has captivated more than 3 million followers across platforms with his vibrant personality and iconic characters, including fan favourites Ezekiel, Screws and Jackson. "With a flair for storytelling and cultural authenticity, we're excited to have him join us for Antigua Carnival, where he will immerse himself in the vibes at T-shirt mas on July 26, enjoy carnival events and spend time exploring the twin-islands," the post stated.

Stay tuned in for the exciting content and moments that will unfold.

Welcome to Antigua and Barbuda, Certified Sampson - it's Carnival time, and Itz A Vibe!





# Feature

## African Dress Day is Friday 25 July, 2025



✧ ANTIGUA & BARBUDA REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION ✧

✧

**AFRICAN DRESS DAY**  
**FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025**  
WEAR AFRICAN-INSPIRED ATTIRE IN TRIBUTE TO OUR HERITAGE AND THE ANCESTORS WHO PAVED THE PATH TO FREEDOM.  
Celebrating 191 Years of Emancipation

— G. Richardson



## Digital Literacy

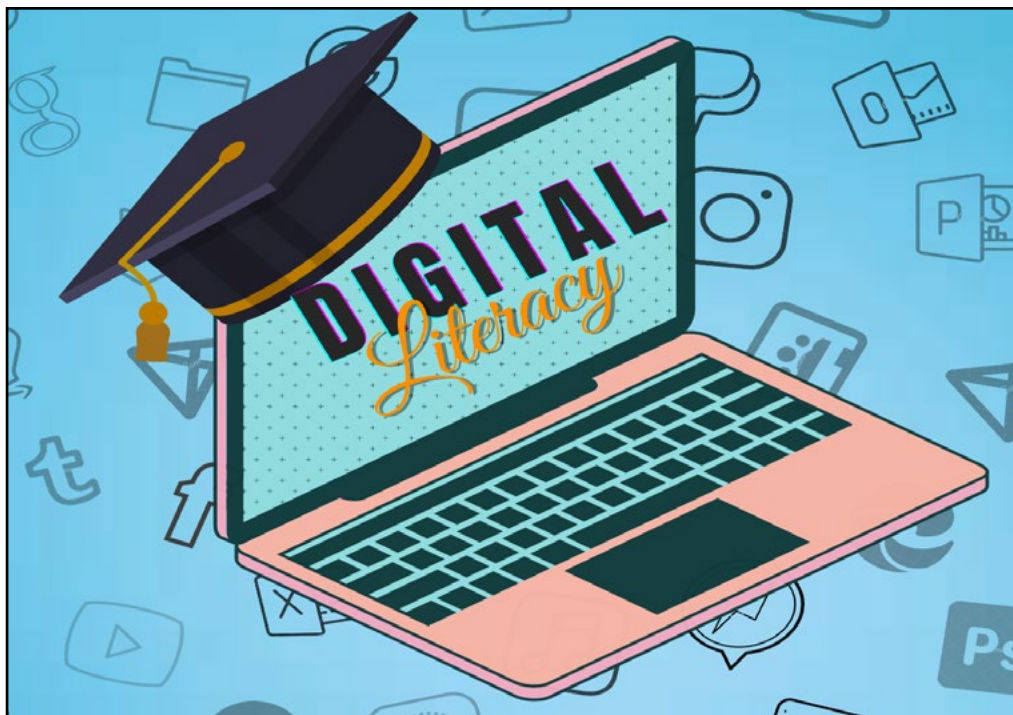
By Andrecia Lewis

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has given rise to a continuously evolving digital society. This new and evolving era is characterized by widespread internet connectivity, data storage and processing power, the usage of artificial intelligence, the development of smart cities, and the usage of digital currencies just to name a few. As a result, Digital Literacy becomes important.

A report conducted by the World Bank Group in 2021 highlighted that almost 70% of persons living in low-income countries who do not use the internet nor benefit from its usage are thwarted due to a lack of digital literacy skills. Competencies most effective when fostered during a person's formative years. The question can be asked, 'what skills fall under the umbrella of digital literacy skills?'

Firstly, information literacy. Information literacy describes the ability to locate, evaluate and effectively use information. It also involves possessing the ability to identify misinformation and disinformation. In an era where individuals are constantly bombarded with information from various sources which often contradict, information literacy becomes increasingly important. Additionally, access to a large quantity of information is meaningless without the requisite ability to assess, evaluate, understand and apply said information. Therefore, highlighting the importance of branching literacy.

Branching literacy involves the use of multiple informational sources to connect the dots in a non-linear manner. For example, the ability to navigate a website which has multiple options which when clicked upon leads to different paths or outcomes. This skill becomes important when interacting with websites, interactive learning and online surveys and forms. It is a digital literacy competency which comple-



ments photo-visual literacy.

Photo-visual literacy involves the ability to easily and accurately interpret and understand visual messages. The capacity to observe a photo, icon or symbol and grasp its meaning. This becomes increasingly important in the digital age as online communication across social media platforms often involves the use of stickers, gifs and emojis. These visual symbols are used to express one's feelings, mood, level of interest or disengagement and therefore must be interpreted accurately to avoid miscommunication. This points to the importance of socio-emotional literacy.

Socio-emotional literacy requires understanding and managing one's emotions in an online space and understanding and respecting other individual's feelings and emotions during online communication and interactions. It can be argued that this skill is one in which many individuals lack. One of the most palpable examples of the effects of the absence of this skill is prominent Hip-Hop artist Nicki Minaj's routine online spars. Addi-

tionally, each time we trade internal emotional regulation skills for online outbursts we are displaying a lack of socio-emotional literacy skills. Finally, there is reproduction literacy.

Reproduction Literacy involves the ability to effectively replicate content or produce original, impactful, meaningful and accurate content. In the age of influencers and online trends, this skill is essential as the digital age rewards creativity and the ability to mirror trends with a sprinkle of individuality. Furthermore, reproduction literacy is the key to the pursuit of online entrepreneurship.

The digital age highlights the importance of digital literacy, further emphasising the significance of a national digital literacy policy. This policy must take into consideration those who are differently abled, the elderly and persons with learning disabilities. Additionally, a digital literacy policy becomes important as this framework can aid in bridging the digital divide, transforming the national educational curricula and implementing the foundations of New Public Management.

# CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

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## Eco-Business Tales: Responsibility Pays Changing the Way We Manage Waste—One Business at a Time

The planet's hot, the seas are high,  
Plastic floats while fish still die.  
But here's a truth both clear and prime:  
We're changing waste—one biz at a time.

The days of dumping, gone and done,  
We've got solutions for everyone.  
Bins and pickups, clean and smart,  
A greener plan? We'll play our part.

It starts at just thirty bucks a month,  
No hidden fees, no corporate stunt.  
We bring the bins right to your door,  
You sort, we collect—and waste no more.

From corner shops to cafés wide,  
To schools and stalls by Oceanside,  
We've helped them all reduce their trash,  
And turn their waste into green cash.

You see, when business minds align  
With nature's call and Earth's own sign,  
It's not just good—it's smart and bold,  
A cleaner brand, a story told.

Why toss away what could be gold?  
Why let your waste grow fat and old?  
With bins for glass and cans and more,  
We help you clean your business floor.

Responsibility pays, they say—  
And now we're proving it every day.  
With each pickup and eco bin,





You show the world you care within.

And better yet, your clients cheer,  
 When they see you keeping oceans clear.  
 They'll choose your biz, they'll spread the word,  
 Because your green voice will be heard.

But wait—there's more we have in store:  
 We don't just clean, we help restore.  
 Workshops, signs, and tips to guide,  
 To keep your conscience on your side.

Are you a salon, shop, or stall?  
 A factory, farm, or office hall?

It doesn't matter what you do,  
 We've got a waste plan made for you.

Together we can shift the tide,  
 With climate justice as our guide.  
 And yes, we mean for everyone—  
 No one left behind, not one.

For folks with wheels or hearing lost,  
 For all who've felt inclusion's cost,  
 This eco-movement holds them near—  
 Their skills, their voices loud and clear.

We dream of work that's kind and just,  
 Where every person earns our trust.  
 Where ability beats sympathy,  
 And waste-free wins come naturally.

So call us up, let's start today,  
 Let's green your business, pave the way.  
 With bins in hand and plans in place,  
 Let's lead the change, let's set the pace.

We offer service, heart, and tools,  
 We rewrite waste and break old rules.  
 From backroom bins to full campaigns,  
 We're lightening loads and clearing drains.

Don't wait until the landfills shout,  
 Or rainstorms drag your garbage out.  
 Act now—be bold, be clean, be wise—  
 Help Earth beneath our island skies.

It starts at thirty—cheap but strong,  
 A price that helps the Earth live long.  
 A monthly fee for lasting gain,  
 A business move that's far from vain.

So here's our vow, our steady climb:  
 We're changing waste one biz at a time.  
 From bins to talks to greener days,  
 We prove that responsibility pays.

Join the shift. Let's make it right.  
 Let's build a future clean and bright.  
 The Earth is calling—hear the chime—  
 And change the way we waste... in rhyme.



# Regional News

## Four US cruise ship passengers accused of smuggling drugs and detained in Bermuda

Authorities in Bermuda said Tuesday that they arrested four US cruise ship passengers accused of drug possession.

Police said in a statement that the suspects had a “significant quantity of illegal drugs” including cannabis and carfentanyl, which experts say is 100 times more potent than fentanyl and is used to tranquillise elephants.

“This seizure may have prevented a potential tragedy,” said acting Detective Superintendent Derricka Burns.

The suspects also were accused of possessing vape pens and suspected THC gummies.

Bermuda police said security officers aboard a Carnival cruise ship had detained the suspects.

They were arrested upon their arrival to the wealthy British overseas territory located in the northern Atlantic Ocean.

Police did not provide additional details. Carnival said in a brief message that it complies with all applicable laws and regulations.

“We follow a zero-tolerance drug policy,” the company said.

“We also advise our guests that they can be personally subject to local law enforcement actions.” (AP)



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at A.S. Bryden & Sons (Antigua) Ltd.

A.S. Bryden & Sons (Antigua) Ltd lays claim to being one of the largest distributors serving Antigua & Barbuda. We are a reputable and established distribution company specializing in the distribution of beer, wine and spirits portfolios.

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- Proven experience in brand management or a related field, with a strong track record of achieving sales targets.
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- Minimum of 5+ years' experience working in brand management, preferably in beverage (beer/wine/spirits) distribution.
- Proven track record of growing premium beverage brands in the local market.
- Excellent negotiation communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build and maintain strong relationships with clients worldwide.
- Strong negotiation and presentation abilities.
- Ability to be self-directed; thrives in a dynamic, fast-paced environment.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends, and public holidays is required.
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation.

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[hr@brydensantigua.com](mailto:hr@brydensantigua.com)

Subject: “Brand Manager Application”

**Apply Before Aug 15th**

*We appreciate all applications, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*



## UWI professor Lloyd Waller is new chairman of HEART/NSTA Trust

Professor Lloyd Waller, a scholar in digital transformation and governance, has been appointed the new chairman of the HEART/NSTA Trust, Jamaica's national skills training agency.

The appointment was approved by Cabinet on June 30.

It comes amid the Government's renewed thrust to boost digital skills training, with an emphasis on modernising technical education to meet global labour market demands.

Education Minister Dr Dana Morris Dixon confirmed the change, noting that Waller's extensive body of work and experience in digital transformation are key to HEART's focus.

"HEART must place greater focus on the incorporation of technology and preparing Jamaicans for the future of work. It is therefore critical that we have someone at the helm at the strategic level with an innate understanding of where the world is going," said Morris Dixon in a statement to *The Gleaner* on Tuesday.

She added that Waller is also "a strong advocate of innovation."

"To provide the skilled workforce needed to spur economic growth, especially in the age of AI, we will need to innovate in our approach. Prof Waller brings those skill sets and body of knowledge to the table at a critical time in the history of HEART."

Waller is the Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at The University of the West Indies, Mona, and Exec-



utive Director of the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre, which is based in Jamaica.

Waller replaced Professor Alvin Wint, whom Morris Dixon has thanked for his service.

"Under his (Wint) leadership, HEART started its pivot to incorporate technology and transform its operations," she said.

Wint took over as chairman in January 2022, replacing businessman Edward Gabbidon.

The HEART Trust/NTA (Human Employment and Resource Training/National Training Agency) was established in 1982 to create a skills-training and employment program for Jamaicans.

It became the HEART/NSTA Trust following a 2019 merger with the Jamaican Foundation for Lifelong Learning, the National Youth Service, and the Apprenticeship Board.

The Government said the merger was intended to refocus all its training resources into one central agency.

In 2022, Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness told Parliament that the agency was in need of a refocus and would be subject to a comprehensive strategic review.

An Auditor General report in 2020 raised questions about the agency's certification rates despite spending millions of dollars on training.

In his budget speech in March this year, Holness pointed to progress, noting that, among other things, HEART was investing \$400 million to establish state-of-the-art STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) labs in technical high schools across the island.

The facilities are to feature robotics kits, virtual welding simulators, drone technology, hydroponic stations, and 3D printers.

Holness also noted that since 2020, some 552,534 persons received skills training, and since the elimination of fees, over 150,000 persons signed up for the various programmes at HEART.

The HEART/NSTA Trust is primarily funded through a mandatory three per cent payroll contribution from employers, based on their total monthly emoluments.

Some \$25.7 billion is projected in collections for the 2025-2026 financial year, according to budget documents approved in March.

Total expected income is \$26.6 billion.

Total expenditure is projected at \$26.3 billion. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

# Regional News



## Public access to Grenadian hospital restricted amid criminal gang activity



The Grenadian government has restricted public access to the male surgical ward of the General Hospital in response to recent safety concerns involving suspected gang-related activity in the vicinity of the hospital.

A government statement said that “effective immediately” access to the ward “is temporarily restricted”.

“This proactive measure has been taken in response to recent safety concerns involving suspected gang-related activity in the vicinity of the hospital. To protect patients, staff, and visitors, heightened security protocols are now in place, including increased police presence and a complete suspension of visits to the Male Surgical Ward.”

The government statement follows the confirmation by police of a shooting incident which left one person dead and four others injured.

In a statement, the main opposition New National Party (NNP) commenting on the gang violence said “another life has been taken by violence. An act that once shocked our conscience now threatens to become disturbingly familiar”.

“We empathise and extend our deepest sympathies to the individuals and families affected by this act of violence.”

The government statement warned also that persons should expect that

entry to the hospital may involve delays and thorough screening and advised there will be no visitors permitted on the male surgical ward until further notice.

“Alternative communication arrange-

ments are being implemented to keep next-of-kin updated on the condition of their loved ones,” said the release, adding that the management of the hospital “understands the inconvenience this may cause and deeply appreciates the patience, cooperation, and understanding of relatives, friends, and the public”.

The public has also been informed that there will be a dedicated 24-hour armed police presence at the Accident and Emergency Department at the General Hospital and that there will be security screening, involving metal detector and bag check for all walk-in patients and visitors prior to entry.

“These measures are necessary to safeguard our staff, patients and visitors,” said Marva Primus-Joseph, Acting Director of Hospital Services. (CMC)





## Erik Menendez taken to hospital with ‘serious’ condition, lawyer tells US media



Erik Menendez has been diagnosed with a “serious medical condition”, his lawyer has told multiple US news outlets.

The news comes weeks before he and his brother, Lyle, are set to appear at a parole hearing after spending decades in prison for the murders of their parents.

The lawyer did not provide further details about the medical condition. The BBC has asked for comment. A number of US outlets are reporting that Menendez has a kidney issue, although this has not been publicly confirmed.

Menendez was taken from a

San Diego prison, in which he has been held for years, to an outside medical facility on Friday.

The California state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation told local outlet CBS 8 that Menendez was in a “fair condition”, but that it could not give further details.

The brothers, who have been behind bars for 35 years, were resentenced in May to 50 years to life in prison for the killings of Kitty and José Menendez, in 1989.

They were previously serving life without the possibility of parole.

But earlier this year, a Los

Angeles judge determined Erik, 54, and Lyle, 57, did not pose an “unreasonable risk” if they were released. The judge added that the brothers had “done enough” while in prison to merit a change of sentence.

The pair’s new sentence made them eligible for parole consideration due to their young ages when their crimes were committed.

The brothers’ lawyer Mark Geragos called for Erik Menendez’s release in a TMZ interview, making reference to his client’s health.

“I just think he should be parole furloughed, I think is the proper term, and he

could be medically furloughed in advance of the hearing so that he can work with the parole attorney and get up to speed and be ready and do it and give it his best shot,” Mr Geragos said. “I think that it’s the only fair and equitable thing to do.”

The brothers’ parole hearing is scheduled for 21 August.

The pair went through two trials before being convicted in the 1990s. They have claimed the murders were in self-defence. Prosecutors contended that the brothers were spoilt young men who killed their parents for financial gain. *(BBC News)*

## Air India crash victim's son says he received wrong remains



The son of a woman killed in the Air India plane crash has told the BBC “other remains” were found in her casket after her body was returned to the UK.

Miten Patel, whose father also died in the crash, said the coroner identified the mixed-up remains and left him to worry: “How many others are in there?”

The Daily Mail reported on Wednesday that the wrong bodies were being sent to loved ones following the crash which killed 260 people shortly after take-off in early June.

All remains were handled with “utmost professionalism” and dignity, India’s foreign ministry said, and that it was working with UK officials to address concerns.

Ashok and Shobhana Patel were

travelling home to visit their sons and grandchildren on 12 June. After the Gatwick-bound plane crashed in Ahmedabad, western India, they were among the first victims to be returned home.

Their son Miten said the mix-up was “obviously very upsetting,” even though he acknowledged that mistakes happen.

“People were tired and there was a lot of pressure. But there has to be a level of responsibility that you’re sending the right bodies to the UK.

“How do I know there aren’t other remains in the casket with her?”

The Daily Mail reported two cases in which the wrong remains were allegedly returned to loved ones in the UK.

One apparently saw a family receive the wrong body entirely, while another was said to involve the remains of several people placed in the same casket.

India’s foreign ministry said that they were aware of the report “and have been working closely with the UK side from the moment these concerns and issues were brought to our attention”.

The statement continued: “In the wake of the tragic crash, the concerned authorities had carried out identification of victims as per established protocols and technical requirements.

“All mortal remains were handled with utmost professionalism and with due regard for the dignity of the deceased.

“We are continuing to work with the UK authorities on addressing any concerns related to this issue.” (*BBC News*)





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



## ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### PRE-EVENTS

**THURS  
FEB 27**

**CARNIVAL LAUNCH**

**SUN  
JULY 13**

**AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S  
KIDDIES FETE**  
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS  
JULY 17**

**CALYPSO MONARCH  
SEMI-FINALS**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**FRI  
JULY 18**

**PARTY MONARCH  
SEMI-FINALS**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**SAT  
JULY 19**

**WITNESS YA FITNESS**  
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

**ECAB MR & MISS  
TEENAGE PAGEANT**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**SUN  
JULY 20**

**QUEEN OF CARNIVAL**  
CARNIVAL CITY  
\$30 (STAND) | \$50 (RESERVED)

**TUES  
JULY 22**

**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF WEST INDIES  
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS  
JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | FREE



## Itz A ViBe



## Skeleton in Guatemalan jungle likely US birdwatcher missing since 2023



Human remains found near an archaeological site in the Guatemalan jungle are thought to be those of a US birdwatcher who was reported missing almost two and a half years ago, local officials say.

A lilac shirt, sandals and shorts which match those worn by Raymond Vincent Ashcroft the day of his disappearance were found at the same location where the human bones were discovered, Carlos Soza of the attorney-general's office said.

Ashcroft, 66, was part of a birdwatching group visiting the ancient Maya city of Tikal, a Unesco World

Heritage site, in February 2023.

At the time of his disappearance, his wife said that Mr Ashcroft had decided to return to the hotel but had never arrived.

She had stayed behind with the group, taking photos, and reported him missing as soon as she realised he had not arrived at their hotel room in the Tikal National Park, local media reported at the time.

Search parties were quickly sent out - just half an hour after Ashcroft had split from his group - but found no trace of the missing tourist.

Sniffer dogs were brought in to search the dense vegetation of the national park but to no avail.

Weeks after his disappearance, Interpol issued a yellow notice but no reports of any sightings were made and no trace of his belongings were found until this week.

Human bones and clothes matching those worn by Ashcroft were spotted in the jungle 14km from the archaeological site by residents of a nearby village, Mr Soza told a local radio station.

According to the official from the Guatemalan At-

torney-General's Office for Crimes Against Foreign Tourists, the remains lay within dense vegetation and could only be reached on foot.

He added that a DNA test would determine if the remains were those of Ashcroft.

Tourists have gone missing before and since in the vast national park.

In 2022, a 53-year-old German man became separated from his group and died from heat stroke.

And in 2023, a French family was found dehydrated but safe after being lost for two days. (*BBC News*)



## Chase, Hope attain career-bests T20I Player Rankings

West Indies all-rounder Roston Chase and captain Shai Hope have achieved career-best positions in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings after creditable performances in the first two T20Is of their five-match home series against Australia, which the visitors lead 2-0.

Chase, who struck 60 off just 32 balls in the first T20I in Kingston and scored 76 runs in two matches, has advanced 37 places to 98th among batters and seven places to a career-best second position in the all-rounders' list, which is led by India's Hardik Pandya.

Chase's previous best was the eighth position that he had reached in December last year.

Meanwhile, Hope has attained a career-best 10th position after scoring 64 runs in two matches, including a 39-ball 55 in the first match, and opening batsman Brandon King is up four places to 30th.

The latest weekly update also considers performances in the Bangladesh-Pakistan series and those of a tri-series in Zimbabwe also featuring New Zealand and South Africa, among other matches this past week.

Australia captain Mitchell Marsh has gained three slots to reach 23rd position, while the Bangladesh pair of Tanzid Hasan (up 18 places to 37th) and Towhid Hridoy (up two places to 39th) are others to make notable gains in the top 50 of the batting rankings.

Devon Conway of New Zealand and Jaker Ali of Bangladesh are in joint-53rd position after gaining three and 17 places, respectively, while Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman (up eight places to 79th) and Cameron Green of Australia (up 34 places to 88th) have also progressed.

In the bowling rankings, Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman's

three wickets in two matches have lifted him back into the top 10, as he has advanced 17 places to reach ninth position.

His teammates Mehedi Hasan moves up nine places to 16th, Tanzim Hasan Sahib goes up nine places to 37th, and Shoriful Islam is up 14 places to 43rd.

New Zealand's Matt Henry moves up 13 places to 29th, Ish Sodhi goes up two places to 33rd, Australia's Sean Abbott is up eight places to 44th, and Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed moves up 12 places to 49th as notable movers on the list.

**Shai Hope**





# Sports News

## More success for Strictly Business in ABSCA's Men's T20 Competition



***The Rackaman Construction Strictly Business men's softball cricket team.***

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business have continued to enjoy success in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Men's T20 Competition.

Strictly Business maintained their dominance of the competition by winning their latest two matches to extend their unbeaten run to five wins in as many games.

Strictly Business ended the unbeaten run of Goody's Taxi Service and Tours 300 in one of those matches at the Dredgers playing field.

They pulled off a seven-wicket win against Goody's Taxi Service and

Tours 300, who suffered their first loss after winning all of their previous four matches.

Batting first, 300 was dismissed for 76 in 17.3 overs. Molvin James cracked 48. Kerry Mentore picked up two wickets for eight runs, and Melvin Charles captured two for 27.

Strictly Business achieved victory by scoring 79 for three in 6.2 overs. Melvin Charles struck 40 not out, and Kim George made 23. Molvin James took one for 19, and Kennedy Tonge picked up one for 27.

Strictly Business also recorded a crushing 123-run

victory against Dredgers at the same venue. Kim George slammed 84, and Melvin Charles hammered 70 to propel Strictly Business to 221 for four off their 20 overs. Kurt Douglas captured two for 35.

In reply, Dredgers suffered their third loss after being dismissed for 98 in 20 overs. Rae Charles hit 28, and Dervel Phillip scored 17. Kadeem Josiah bagged two for 16, Melvin Charles took two for 23, and Owen Graham picked up two for 24.

Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js notched up their third win with a commanding 70-

run victory against PMS at the Rising Sun playing field.

Buckley's 3Js were all out for 156 in 18.3 overs. Steve Martin struck 50, and Denley Thomas hit 22. Vishal Gobin grabbed four for 25, Kenny Benjamin took two for 16, and Kurl Simon claimed two for 51.

PMS crashed to their fifth loss in as many games after being dismissed for 86 in 18.3 overs. Kenny Benjamin hit 24, and Clarence Francis made 16.

Steve Martin snapped up three for 21, Xavier Otto bagged two for 11, and Rodney Williams claimed two for 15.





# ANTIGUA Carnival Itz A ViBe



## OFFICIAL PARADE ROUTES 2025

**26  
JUL**

### T-SHIRT MAS 3 PM - 9 PM

**Assembly point: Old Parham Road Near The T.N. Kirnon School**

UP Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Simon Bolivar Dr. **RIGHT** onto Factory Rd.  
**LEFT** onto Parliament Dr. **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
**LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** onto  
Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Old Parham Rd.

**27  
JUL**

### Junior Carnival 2 pm

**Assembly point: Old House Of Culture ( 1:30 pm | move off at 2pm)**

Turn **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
**LEFT** on Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** on  
Independence Ave. **RIGHT** at the roundabout onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto  
Coronation Rd. into Carnival City.  
Water breaks between (Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street) and (between corner ACB & Magistrate Court)

**04  
AUG**

### J'Ouvert 3AM - 10AM Steel Bands(Repeat)

ARG – **SOUTH** on Independence Ave. **RIGHT** on Redcliffe St.,  
**RIGHT** on Market St. **RIGHT** on High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.

### J'Ouvert 3AM - 10AM Jam Bands & Sound System (Repeat)

ARG – **SOUTH** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Vivian Richards St.  
**RIGHT** onto Market St. **LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St.  
**RIGHT** onto High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** on Redcliffe St.

### Judging of Bands 2 pm

**Assembly point: Corner of Factory Road & Parliament Drive**

**RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **LEFT** onto  
Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** onto Independence Ave.

**05  
AUG**

### Parade of Bands 12 Noon

**Assembly point: Old Parham Road Near The T.n. Kirnon School**

UP Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Simon Blvd. **RIGHT** onto Factory Rd.  
**LEFT** on to Parliament Dr. and **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto  
Independence Ave. **LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto  
High St. **LEFT** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto  
Coronation Rd. into Carnival City

### Last Lap | 7 pm - 10 pm

UP Old Parham Rd. turn **RIGHT** on Coronation Rd  
**RIGHT** onto Factory Rd., **LEFT** onto Independence Ave., **RIGHT** onto Redcliffe St.  
**RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
and continue until 10PM.

# VACANCY

## ACCOUNTANT

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated Accountant to support the timely preparation of financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), reconcile key balance sheet accounts, and enhance our financial reporting systems. Working closely and under the direct supervision of the Senior Accountant, the incumbent will be responsible for the reconciliation of key accounts, enhancement of financial reporting processes, and providing support on various finance-related special projects. This position requires a detail-oriented, analytical, and results-driven individual.

### Key duties include:

- Preparing monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements in compliance with IFRS.
- Reconciling key accounts, including but not limited to bank accounts, payables, receivables, inventory, accruals, and other general ledger balances.
- Working closely and under the supervision of the Senior Accountant to ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with internal policies.
- Assisting in the preparation and review of audit schedules and supporting external and internal audit processes.
- Identifying and implementing improvements to enhance and streamline financial reporting processes and applications.
- Ensuring all financial records are maintained in an organized and timely manner to support management reporting and decision-making.
- Analyzing financial data and trends to identify variances and recommend corrective actions.
- Assisting in the preparation of budgets and forecasts as needed.
- Supporting the automation of routine reports and development of financial dashboards.
- Participating in the implementation of new accounting systems or process improvements.
- Providing support for special projects, including financial analysis for capital projects, regulatory reporting, and funding applications.
- Maintaining compliance with company policies, internal controls, and regulatory requirements.

### The successful candidate **MUST** possess the following:

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field.
- A minimum of three (3) years of experience in a similar role; utility or public sector experience is an asset.
- Minimum professional accounting designation of ACCA, CPA, or CMA.
- Strong knowledge of IFRS and financial reporting standards.
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel, accounting software and ERP systems.
- Excellent analytical, organizational, and time-management skills.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work effectively within a team.
- A high level of integrity, discretion, and commitment to confidentiality.

### Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager  
Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue  
St. Johns, Antigua  
**OR** Email: [hr@apua.ag](mailto:hr@apua.ag)

**Deadline for application is Friday 1st August, 2025**

**\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\***

**"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"**





## Villa Lions oust Police to reach final in Fort Road League



*Players of the Villa Lions football team.*

The Villa Lions extended their unbeaten run to advance to the final of the Fort Road Community Football League on Tuesday.

The Villa Lions snatched a 3-2 victory in a penalty shootout against Police Enforcers in the first semi-final at the Fort Road playing field.

The match was decided in the penalty shootout after both teams fought to a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation play.

Forward Eroy Gonsalves snatched a late equalizer for Villa Lions by scoring a penalty kick in the 48th minute. Jahquan Davis put Police Enforcers ahead with a conversion in the 41st minute.

But Police gave Villa Lions the advantage by failing to convert the first of their three penalty kicks.

All three kickers scored their penalty, with Davere Hughes slamming home the third and final spot kick to snatch victory for the Villa Lions.

The Villa Lions, who also won all three previous matches in Group A during the preliminary stage, will face either Real Blizzard or Blackburn Palace in the final at the same venue on Thursday (today).

Group B winners Real Blizzard and Blackburn Palace were slated to meet in the second semi-final in Fort Road on Wednesday.



Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission  
 CIU  
 ANTIGUA BARBUDA  
 The Road to the Regency  
 PRESENTS

**JULY 31**  
 CARNIVAL CITY  
*It's A Vibe*

**Caribbean Melting**

**LONG BAY LAGER**

**FEATURING:**  
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 KID FRESH  
 GE'EVE  
 ISLAND PRINCE  
 YOUNG LYRICS  
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# No fairytale end for Andre Russell against Australia



**Andre Russell receives a special present in his final game for the West Indies during the second T20I against Australia at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. (Getty Images)**

There was no fairy-tale ending for Andre Russell, but there was love — and plenty of it — as the West Indies all-rounder brought the curtain down on a glittering international career at Sabina Park on Tuesday night.

Despite a dominant eight-wicket loss to Australia in the second T20 International, the emotion of the occasion belonged entirely to the man known as Dre Russ one final time.

I just want to say thanks again. I'm very grateful to end my career here," said Russell.

"Played in front of my home crowd, family and friends. The result didn't go my way, but at the end of the day, I'm happy and grateful. The crowd has been amazing in the last two games. Really appreciate it.

"We tried our best. I feel like it's time for me to just hang it up, and wish the boys all the best moving forward. I'm very grateful for this amazing international career finishing at Sabina Park. Keep supporting."

It was a bittersweet farewell. Having lost the first T20I on Sunday by three wickets, the West Indies

were thoroughly outplayed in the second encounter, as Australia chased down 173 with 28 balls to spare.

Josh Inglis bludgeoning 78 not out off 33 balls in a record-breaking 131-run partnership with Cameron Green, who struck 56 not out off 32 balls. The West Indies, for their part, dropped six catches on the night — one of them by Russell himself.

Still, the 36-year-old left his mark. Coming in with his team faltering at 98 for five, Russell reminded everyone of his destructive best, smashing 36 off just 15 deliveries, including two

fours and four towering sixes. The Sabina crowd erupted with every blow — a fitting encore for one of the greatest T20 players the Caribbean has ever produced.

As the match ended and players shook hands, the moment truly belonged to Russell. Surrounded by fans and teammates, he posed for selfies, signed autographs, and soaked in the final moments in West Indies colours.

The Australian players also lined up to pay their respects to a player, who has earned admiration across global leagues and nations.



## Venus Williams becomes oldest WTA match-winner since 2004

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Venus Williams said she still has fire in her belly after the 45-year-old became the oldest player to win a WTA singles match since 2004 with her 6-3 6-4 victory over Peyton Stearns at the Washington Open on Tuesday.

Having returned to competitive action on Monday in the women's doubles following a 16-month absence from the game, Williams defeated world number 35 Stearns to claim her first singles win since 2023 in Cincinnati.

The seven-times Grand Slam singles champion is the oldest WTA singles match-winner since a 47-year-old Martina Navratilova won at Wimbledon in 2004.

"I think I just attacked the whole time. It's just trying to find the right balance between going to hard and not enough," Williams said after the



**Venus Williams reacts after winning a women's single match against Peyton Stearns at the Mubadala Citi DC Open at William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. (Getty Images)**

opening-round win.

"It's the same because this is what I do, but at the same time, at the time it was imperative for me to do it. Now I don't have to do this, but I have the same fire and the same want to win.

"In some ways, I'm still getting back into that. When you do it every day, everything is natural. Not as natural feeling now, but I hope I can get back to that."

Williams will next face Polish fifth seed Magdalena Frech. "I think it was a big win for me today. Like I said, it's not easy. It won't be easy. It's not easy for anyone out here," Williams said.

"So I know I'll have to fight for every match, but I'm up for that."

Emma Raducanu was among the big names that progressed after the 2021 US Open champion beat Ukrainian sev-

enth seed Marta Kostyuk 7-6(4), 6-4 in her opener. The 22-year-old Briton will next face four-times Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka.

"I think it's a great match for a lot of spectators, which is great to be a part of," Raducanu told reporters.

"She's been playing really good tennis this year. Yeah, it will be a great test of my own game and myself."

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times – both of them were dropped twice each – but it was nevertheless a brilliant, record-setting display from the duo, who put on Australia's biggest third-wicket partnership in the format, overtaking the 118 previously set by Aaron Finch and Maxwell.

Green has now scored 423 runs

across his last 14 innings in the short format, and reached a half-century in back-to-back T20s for only the second time, having done so previously in the 2023 Indian Premier League.

Australia are now on a run of seven wins from their last eight T20Is against the Windies, having only won two of their previous 10 such meetings.

West Indies, meanwhile, have lost their last five T20Is at home, equalling their longest losing run in such fixtures in the format.

The current five-match T20I series will now switch to Warner Park in St. Kitts for the remaining three encounters. Australia and the West Indies will clash in the third match on Friday.

## Australia beat Windies to go 2-0 up in T20I series



**West Indies opener Brandon King celebrates his fifty against Australia during the second T20 International at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Tuesday, July 22, 2025.**

Australia's Cameron Green and Josh Inglis plundered unbeaten half-centuries as Andre Russell's farewell match ended in defeat for West Indies at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Tuesday night.

Australia cruised to a thumping eight-wicket victory over West Indies in the second match of their T20 International (T20I) series in Kingston.

Inglis and Green were the stars of the show for the tourists, scoring 78 not out and an unbeaten 56, respectively, at Sabina Park, where Andre Russell played his final international match before retirement.

West Indies had put on a respectable 172 for eight across their innings of 20 overs.



**Australia's Cameron Green, left and Josh Inglis put up a big stand against the West Indies during the second T20 International at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. (Getty Images)**

Brandon King hit a top score of 51 for the West Indies. King shared a half-century opening partnership with Shai Hope, who made nine, before succumbing to Adam Zampa.

The diminutive leg-spinner was the pick of Australia's bowlers by snapping up three for 29. But King's dismissal by Zampa sparked a collapse, as the Windies went from 63 for one to 98 for five.

The Windies quickly lost Hope, Roston Chase for 16, Shimron Hetmyer for 14, and Sherfane Rutherford for nought.

Russell's blistering 36 off 15 balls, Gudakesh Motie's unbeaten nine-ball 18, and Rovman Powell's 12 got the West Indies back on course, but Australia had few issues in hunting down

their target.

Glen Maxwell claimed two for 15, and seamer Nathan Ellis picked up two for 34.

Glenn Maxwell (12) and captain Mitchell Marsh (21) fell early, but Inglis and Green took control, putting on a huge unbeaten third-wicket stand of 131.

Russell dropped Inglis at one point, before going for 16 from his final over in international cricket.

Inglis reached his unbeaten 78 off just 33 balls, while Green hit a second successive half-century as Australia reached their target with 28 balls to spare and took a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Inglis and Green rode their luck at  
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