

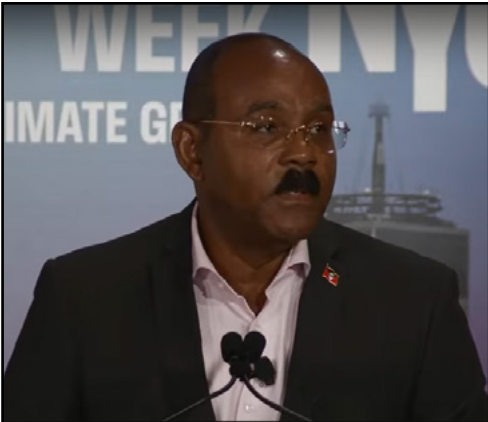
Prime Minister Renews Call for Justice at Climate Week NYC

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In Antigua and Barbuda, National Breastfeeding Week is being celebrated under the theme: Invest in Breastfeeding, Invest in the Future

The Prime Minister Demands Climate Justice for SIDS at Climate Week NYC



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has reminded the world of Antigua and Barbuda's long-standing resilience while addressing the opening of Climate Week NYC yesterday.

Reflecting on the nation's independence in 1981, Browne said the same spirit that carried the small island through hurricanes, economic shocks, and the challenges of nation-building is now being tested by a global crisis it did not create — climate change.

"Climate change is a threat multiplier," Browne declared. "For small islands, it turns every storm into a fiscal catastrophe, every drought into a food security emergency, and every inch of sea level rise into an existential threat."

He pointed to Hurricane Irma in 2017, which destroyed 95% of homes in Barbuda and left a recovery bill of more than US\$200 million. Even storms that veer away, he added, drain millions in preparedness costs. Despite emitting less than 0.01% of global greenhouse gases, Antigua and Barbuda faces devastating consequences.

"Every degree of warming is an invoice," Browne said, underscoring the economic and human toll on vulnerable states.

The prime minister emphasized that advances in climate science now prove the human role in extreme weather, shifting the debate from moral sym-

pathy to legal and financial accountability. He criticized the inadequacy of existing pledges, noting that while climate promises are counted in millions, the actual needs are in the hundreds of billions.

"The Loss and Damage Fund must not be another empty shell," he insisted. "It should be adequately capitalized to provide meaningful and predictable financing."

Mr. Browne also challenged the global reliance on GDP per capita to determine eligibility for financing, arguing it unfairly disqualifies small island states from crucial support. Instead, he called for adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), which better reflects the economic and environmental realities of vulnerable nations.

Browne highlighted the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, which calls for accessible and just climate financing, oceans to be recognized as central to planetary stability, full capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and special circumstances of small islands to be mainstreamed across negotiations.

Concluding his address, Prime Minister Browne declared that "Climate financing is not charity. It is justice. And it is survival, especially for small island developing states. Loss and damage is not theory—it is lived reality."

He urged the global community to move beyond sympathy toward action, insisting that resilience must not be the ceiling of ambition, but the bridge to justice, dignity, security, and shared prosperity.



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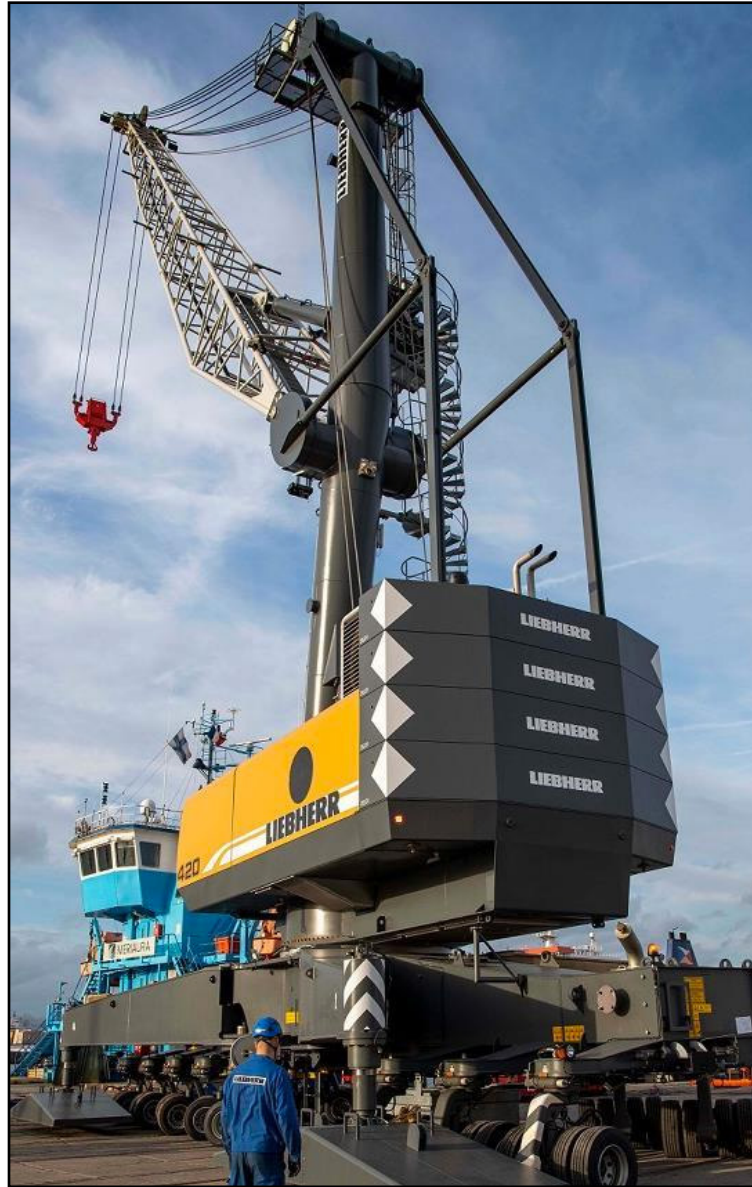
\$15M Super-Crane Arrives at Deepwater Harbour

A \$15 million state-of-the-art crane has arrived at Deepwater Harbour, marking a major step in Antigua and Barbuda's push to modernise its port facilities and keep pace with global shipping demands.

The new equipment, a Liebherr 420 Mobile Harbour Crane, engineered with higher lifting power, faster speeds, and a wider reach, will allow the port to handle vessels carrying up to 14 containers across. Currently, the port can only accommodate ships nine containers wide.

Officials say the upgrade positions Antigua and Barbuda to better serve the massive post-Panamax vessels that dominate regional trade routes, strengthening the country's competitiveness in the Caribbean shipping industry.

German engineers have arrived on island to oversee the crane's assembly, a process expected to take four to five weeks. Once complet-



An image of a 420 Mobile Harbour Crane

ed, the equipment will be tested and handed over for operations.

To ensure long-term performance, local technicians will also receive specialised training at the manufacturer's facilities to carry out preventive maintenance and repairs.

Deep Water Harbour averages 26 container moves per hour, a rate that outpaces many regional competitors. Officials believe that with two cranes eventually working side by side, productivity could nearly double.

Port Authority representatives confirmed that a second crane is being considered, potentially with even greater capacity, along with additional freight-handling equipment.

The addition of the new crane is expected to transform the port's efficiency and expand Antigua and Barbuda's role in regional trade.



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Local News

Antigua and Barbuda Reaffirms Commitment to Women's Rights at 30th Anniversary of Beijing Declaration

Antigua and Barbuda has reaffirmed its commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, marking the 30th anniversary of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Speaking at the commemoration held at the United Nations headquarters yesterday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne highlighted how the promises made three decades ago have translated into measurable progress at the national level, while also acknowledging the challenges that remain.

Over the past three decades, Antigua and Barbuda has steadily moved "from promise to action," with notable gains in education, employment, and leadership.

"Gender equity is not only a matter of rights—it is essential for justice, development, and the sustainability of families and communities," Prime Minister Gaston Brown emphasized.

While progress has been made, he stressed that recommitment to the Beijing agenda is vital. Priorities moving forward include ensuring equal pay for equal work, protecting women from violence, expanding investments in health and education and opening more pathways to leadership.

For small island states like Antigua and Barbuda, empowering women is directly linked to resilience and survival. Women play pivotal roles in



Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking at the commemoration held at the United Nations headquarters yesterday

family life, community building, economic activity, and climate change adaptation.

"The Beijing Declaration is not a relic of the past—it's a living promise," the prime minister noted.

For Antigua and Barbuda Mr. Browne has pledged to accelerate the implementation of Beijing commitments, even under fiscal constraints, giving priority to resource gender equality programs, amplifying women's leadership in climate action, finance, and

peacebuilding and building a society where women and girls can thrive as equal partners in development

The prime minister used his UN address to issue a rallying call for urgency and solidarity, stating, "The rights, dignity, and potential of women and girls everywhere must never again be negotiable. Let us act with urgency so that equity becomes equality and every woman and girl can live free, lead boldly, and achieve her full potential."


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Ambassador Pilgrim Concludes High-Level Engagements in Preparation for CHOGM 2026

Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, has concluded a series of high-level engagements in London, reinforcing Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to delivering a successful Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2026.

On 16th September 2025, Dr. Pilgrim visited the Commonwealth Secretariat at Marlborough House where he held consultations with senior officials, including Ambassador Kwabena Osei-Danquah, Chief of Staff to the Secretary-General. Discussions focused on strategic and logistical preparations for CHOGM 2026, including coordination, communications, and stakeholder engagement.

Further meetings were convened with Mr. John Virgoe, UK Commonwealth Envoy; Mr. Anthony Henderson, Head of Events, Special Projects, and Communications; and Mr. Dominic Goggins, Public Affairs Adviser to the Secretary-General. The delegation also engaged with the CHOGM Security Coordination Team,



comprising representatives from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, the CARICOM Regional Security System (RSS), and other supporting member states, to review security and operational planning.

Additionally, Dr. Pilgrim met with the leads for the CHOGM Youth, Women, People's, and Business Forums, reaffirming Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to hosting an inclusive and impactful summit that reflects the diversity and priorities of the Commonwealth family.

During his visit, the Per-

manent Secretary also paid an official call on the High Commission of Antigua and Barbuda in London, where he held in-depth discussions with High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill and diplomatic staff. The discussions centred on the High Commission's critical role in supporting CHOGM 2026 preparations and strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's diplomatic engagement across the Commonwealth.

"Antigua and Barbuda is honoured to welcome the Commonwealth family in 2026. Our mission is

to deliver a CHOGM that is secure, inclusive, and solutions-oriented - one that amplifies the voices of all member states, especially Small Island Developing States, and charts a path for a more resilient and sustainable Commonwealth. The collaboration and support we have received from partners in London this week have been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing this momentum as we move closer to CHOGM 2026," the Antiguan and Barbudan diplomat stated.

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ABRSC Announces Second Annual Africa-Caribbean Dress Gala Dinner

On the heels of the momentous 2nd Africa-CARICOM Summit held earlier this month in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) has announced its second annual, highly anticipated Africa-Caribbean Dress Fundraising Gala Dinner on Saturday, October 4th, 2025.

The event will be held at the elegant Cortsland Hotel. This one-of-a-kind evening promises a captivating fusion of African and Caribbean culture, blending fine dining, live entertainment, and cultural edification into an unforgettable experience. Guests will indulge in a curated three-course African/Caribbean-inspired menu, paired with wines and exquisite desserts.

Adding to the night's excitement, LIAT 2020 Limited has once again partnered with the Commission, generously sponsoring two round-trip tickets to any Caribbean destination served by the airline. The coveted prizes will be awarded to the best-dressed male and female, bringing glamour and friendly competition to the celebration. Guests will also enjoy African wines, courtesy of official drink sponsor Brydens, further elevating the evening's uniqueness and charm.

The ABRSC has also acknowledged the continued support of Community First Co-operative Credit Union, and the West Indies Oil Company, key partners in this year's Gala Dinner.

A statement from the ABRSC outlined that the Africa-Caribbean Dress Gala Dinner will serve as the crown jewel in celebrating the growing movement to reconnect people-to-people ties, honouring shared heritage, culture, memory, and identity.

Organisers say the event is not just a fundraiser; it is a celebration of unity and a powerful reminder of the social and economic potential that lies in strengthening relationships with the



2024 best dressed winners

African continent.

Tickets for the second annual Africa-Caribbean Dress Fundraising Gala Dinner are \$200.00 and are available

through any member of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission.



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2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 OCT - 03 NOV

SATURDAY 25 OCT

- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA**
ANTIGUA PORT AUTHORITY PARKING LOT
5:00PM

SUNDAY 26 OCT

- **INDEPENDENCE CHURCH SERVICE**
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH CREEKSIDE
4:00PM

MONDAY 27-29 OCT

- **NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
BUSINESS DECOR COMPETITION**

MONDAY 27 OCT

- **NATIONAL HEROES DAY
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**
HEROES PARK- SIR SYDNEY WALLINGS HIGHWAY
10:00 AM

TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS**
ST. ANTHONY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
8:00PM
- **BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES (TBC)**



WEDNESDAY 29 OCT

- **SCHOOLS' INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS**
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE
- **GOLDEN AGE CELEBRATIONS**
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
- **THEATRICAL PRESENTATION
"WADADLI ROOTS"**
7:30PM (TBC)

THURSDAY 30 OCT

- **NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY** 8:30AM
- **CHEERLEADING COMPETITION** 11:30AM
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
- **INDEPENDENCE CALYPSO COMPETITION**
JACK IDLE
8:00PM

FRIDAY 31 OCT

- **NATIONAL DRESS DAY**
- **NATIONAL FLAG DAY**
- **UNCHARTERED WATERS**
JOHN E ST. LUCE BUILDING
8:00PM

SATURDAY 01 NOV

- **INDEPENDENCE FLAG CEREMONY**
BARBUDA
9:00AM
- **NATIONAL FOOD FAIR**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
10:00AM UNTIL
- **INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIAL
PARADE & NATIONAL AWARDS**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
5:30PM

MONDAY 03 NOV

- **BURNING FLAMES HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC JAM**
BURNING FLAMES HIGHWAY
(TIME TBC)

Local News



20 Years Since the Founding of the Henry Reeve Brigade

By Ambassador H.E.
Sergio Manuel Martinez
Gonzalez

On September 19th, 20 years ago, the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Commander Fidel Castro, met with a large group of doctors, nurses, and other specialists from the Cuban health system to inquire about their willingness to travel to the United States and voluntarily assist the people of that country, who had just suffered untold material and human damage due to the devastating Hurricane Katrina. This contingent of doctors and health personnel was named Henry Reeve, in memory of the courageous American soldier who fought alongside our heroic Mambises in our war of liberation against the colonial power.

In the 20 years since its founding, the Henry Reeve Brigade has been present in support missions to countries that have suffered very difficult health emergencies, such as Pakistan after the devastating earthquake that hit that country, in the fight against Ebola in African countries, the confrontation with the terrible COVID-19 epidemic, and other cases resulting from hurricanes and disasters in Latin America, the Caribbean, the African continent, and other regions of the world. Their selfless and courageous work is a living testament to the altruistic and human-



istic vocation that characterizes Cuban medical collaboration. On the beloved sister island of Antigua and Barbuda, members of the Henry Reeve Brigade offered their modest contribution and support to face the difficult times caused by the effects of COVID-19.

As Cuba has denounced in multiple scenarios, today the US Government has resumed with greater force than ever its campaign of lies against the Cuban men and women who, like the members of the medical brigade working in Antigua and Barbuda, provide their services throughout the world. We see all kinds of threatening sanctions against governments that have sovereignly maintained collaboration agreements with Cuba for more than 20 years to provide vital medical services to the people of their respective countries. In its unhealthy obsession against the Cuban Revolution, the U.S. government does not stop

for a second to consider the fact that its draconian measures could deprive millions of people around the world of basic health services currently provided by Cuban collaborators.

This campaign of pressure and lies clashes with the international condemnation it provokes. In Geneva on May 13, the Ministers of Health of the member nations of the Non-Aligned Movement, which includes practically two-thirds of the world's population, issued a forceful statement rejecting the dishonest and unjustified campaign to discredit Cuban international medical cooperation being waged by the United States government and expressed their recognition of the Cuban health professionals who have provided and continue to provide their services in various nations around the world. They emphasized that no one with a basic sense of honesty can doubt that this is an attack on multilateralism, a manipulation

for political purposes, and an extension of aggression and hostility against Cuba. They described it as imperative to defend and recognize the valuable contributions of the thousands of Cuban health professionals who, at enormous sacrifice, continue to provide their cooperation.

Neither the discrediting campaigns nor the devastating effects of the intensified economic, commercial, and financial blockade will prevent Cuba from continuing to save lives and share its scarce resources with other nations around the world that need it and sovereignly request it. Access to health-care is a human right, and millions of people cannot be deprived of this inalienable right for spurious political reasons and long-standing desires for imperial domination. For Cubans, solidarity is not charity, but a bastion of independence, justice, and peace. It is a noble quality that should characterize every human being.

An unforgettable quote from Malcolm X, one of the greatest fighters for civil rights and human dignity in the United States, teaches us, that "there is no better teacher than adversity. Every loss contains within itself the seed that guarantees the possibility of re-emergence."

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



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Regional News

Amnesty International warns that US military force in Caribbean could violate human rights

As United States President Donald Trump steps up military build-up in the Caribbean Sea, Amnesty International is warning that any airstrikes authorised by Congress would violate international human rights law and could amount to unlawful executions.

Responding to the reported circulation of a draft resolution in the US Congress to authorise the use of military force against alleged drug traffickers, Amnesty International USA's Director of Security and Human Rights, Daphne Eviatar said that, if US legislators authorise using military force against suspected drug traffickers, "it would not change the fact that such lethal strikes amount to extrajudicial executions and have no legal justification whatsoever under international human rights law".

"Congress must not rubber stamp further unlawful strikes and should instead work to hold the administration accountable for its illegal actions," said Eviatar, noting that reports indicate that a draft resolution has circulated in the US Congress to authorise military force against "groups that the executive branch designates as terrorists and that Mr Trump determines, in consultation with Congress, have either trafficked in drugs to finance terrorist activities or used terrorist tactics to advance narcotics-related enterprises."

On September 3, Trump said the US military bombed a boat allegedly departed from Venezuela, killing 11 people.

On September 15, Trump also claimed responsibility for another lethal airstrike on an alleged boat carrying drugs in the Caribbean, reportedly killing three people.

On Friday, Trump said that the US military has conducted a third airstrike on a vessel allegedly laden with drugs in the Caribbean Sea.



"Under international human rights law, intentional lethal force can only be used when strictly necessary to protect life from an imminent threat, and when no less harmful means, such as capture, are available," Eviatar said. "Moreover, any use of lethal force must be proportionate to the threat faced in the prevailing circumstances, particularly with a view to minimising risks posed to human life and personal integrity."

On Friday, US Senators Tim Kaine and Adam Schiff introduced a War Powers Act resolution that would block use of US Armed Forces to engage in hostilities against certain non-state organisations following multiple unauthorised military strikes on unverified alleged drug trafficking operations in the Southern Caribbean Sea.

"President Trump has no legal authority to launch strikes or use military force in the Caribbean or elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere," said Kaine, Democrat of Virginia, stating that the Trump administration has refused to provide the US Congress with basic information about the multiple strikes it has carried out, including who was killed, why it was necessary to put servicemembers' lives at risk, and why a standard interdiction operation wasn't conducted.

Schiff, Democrat of California, added, "While we share with the executive branch the imperative of preventing and deterring drugs from reaching our shores, blowing up boats without

any legal justification risks dragging the United States into another war and provoking unjustified hostilities against our own citizens."

The resolution reaffirms that trafficking of illegal drugs does not itself constitute an armed attack or threat of an imminent armed attack that would justify military action, and that the designation of an entity as a foreign terrorist organisation does not provide any legal authority to the US President to use military force.

It also emphasises the importance of Congress retaining its power to declare war as President Trump has stated that "it is not possible at this time to know the full scope and duration of military operations that will be necessary."

The resolution reiterates the lawmakers' commitment to providing the Executive Branch the resources necessary to prevent and mitigate drug and narcotics trafficking into the United States.

Trump has warned that the military strikes would expand to land, potentially triggering a land war with Venezuela.

"We're telling the cartels right now we're going to be stopping them, too. When they come by land, we're going to be stopping them the same way we stopped the boats," he said. "But maybe by talking about it a little bit, it won't happen. If it doesn't happen, that's good."

On Saturday, Venezuela Attorney General Tarek William Saab urged the United Nations to investigate "crimes against humanity" allegedly conducted by US Forces in the Caribbean.

"The use of missiles and nuclear weapons to serially murder defenceless fishermen on a small boat are crimes against humanity that must be investigated by the UN," said Saab in a statement. (CMC)

Regional News

PAGE 13

Atlantic Hurricane Gabrielle swirls southeast of Bermuda as Tropical Storm Narda forms off Mexico

Hurricane Gabrielle formed Sunday in the open Atlantic southeast of Bermuda, while Tropical Storm Narda emerged well off southern Mexico's Pacific coast.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center said Gabrielle became a Category 1 hurricane after its top sustained winds rose to 75 mph (120 kph). Gabrielle was centred some 320 miles (515 kilometres) southeast of Bermuda and was moving to the north-northwest at 10 mph (17 kph).

The hurricane center said Gabrielle could become a major hurricane in the early part of this week as it is expected to undergo steady to rapid intensification over the next day or so. On the current forecast track, Gabrielle was expected to pass east of Bermuda on Monday.

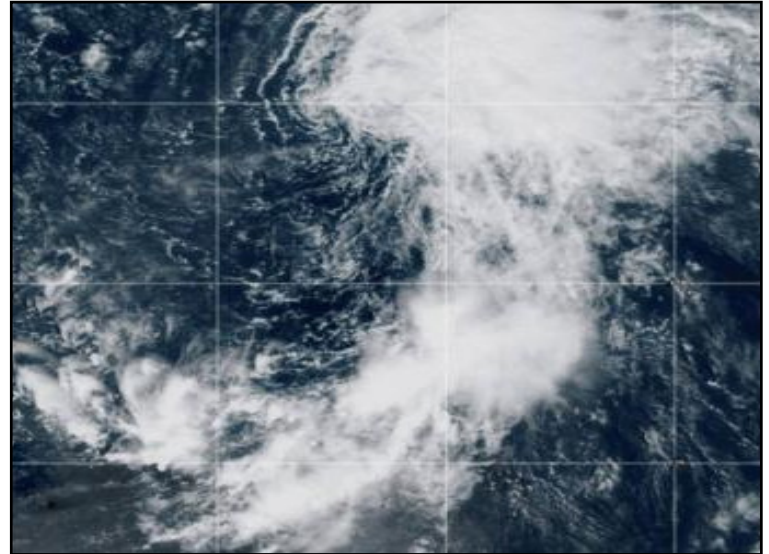
A hurricane hunter aircraft found the storm at hurricane strength and moving on a more north-northwest track. But the center said a more northerly course was expected Monday. No coastal watches or warnings are in effect, but meteorologists urged interests in Bermuda to keep close watch.

Large ocean swells kicked up by Gabrielle are impacting Bermuda and are expected to reach the Eastern Seaboard from North Carolina northward into Atlantic Canada over the coming days.

In the Pacific, Narda emerged well offshore of Mexico on Sunday after-

noon and posed no threat to land.

The hurricane centre said Narda had top sustained winds of about 40 mph (65 kph) and was positioned about 240 miles (386 kilometres) south-southeast of Zihuatanejo, Mexico, while moving to the northwest at 10 mph (17 kph). The centre says Narda could become a hurricane while heading further offshore. (AP)



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Antigua

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St. John's

I, **Dwayne Pascal**, of English Harbour, St. Paul, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on **Thursday 2nd, October, 2025** for a Tavern License for the premises known as "**Pascalito Bar & Pizzeria**" situated at English Harbour, in the Parish of St. Paul in the Island of Antigua pursuant to **Section 11(5) of the Licensing (Intoxicated Liquor) Act, Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.**

Dated the 22nd September, 2025
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

UWI appoints accomplished sport sociologist as new dean of sport

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) announced the strategic appointment of Dr. Roy McCree as the new Dean of its Faculty of Sport.

UWI shared via press release that Dr. McCree, a distinguished Caribbean scholar specializing in the sociology of sport, officially commenced his three-year leadership role on August 1, 2025.

He steps into this office following the tenure of Dr. Akshai Mansingh, who served as the inaugural Dean since the Faculty's inception in 2017. This transition occurs at a pivotal juncture, reports UWI, as the Faculty approaches its tenth anniversary—marking a decade of pioneering academic programs, research, and regional influence in sport studies.

Reportedly a trailblazer in the field of sport sociology, Dr. McCree played a foundational role in the Caribbean's academic landscape. He pioneered the region's first courses in the Sociology of Sport, integrated into the BSc in Sport Management, as well as Sport and Public Policy, offered within the MSc in Sport Management. His contributions have significantly shaped how sport is taught, understood, and researched across the Caribbean. Over his thirty-year career at The UWI, he has blended teaching, scholarly research, and community engagement to elevate the status of sport as a vital academic and professional discipline, stated the release.

Prior to his appointment as Dean, Dr. McCree served as a Senior Research Fellow at the Sir Arthur Lew-



is Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), a position he held from 1991 until 2025. He is also an esteemed alumnus of The UWI, having earned his Bachelor of Arts in French, Spanish, and Sociology, along with a Master's degree in Sociology from the St. Augustine campus. His doctoral studies in the Sociology of Sport were completed at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. His research has extensively covered areas such as sport development, sport for development initiatives, youth and community engagement, and monitoring and evaluation processes.

His scholarly output includes numerous publications in international journals dedicated to sport, alongside two recent books: "Sport Development and Sport for Development in the Caribbean: A Sociology of Emerging Trends" (Emerald, 2025) and "Soccer and Identity in the Caribbean: Race, Class and Nation,

1908–1973" (Routledge, 2024).

Beyond academia, Dr. McCree contributes to the global discourse on sport through his role on the Advisory Board of Manchester University Press's Globalising Sport Studies Series and as a member of the Editorial Board for the "Journal of Global South Sport Studies". He also played a key role in founding the Caribbean Sociological Association (CASA), serving as its President for two consecutive terms from 2021 to 2023.

According to UWI, the establishment of the Faculty of Sport at the university marked a historic milestone. Approved by the University Council in 2017, it was the first new faculty introduced in over four decades. Today, it remains the sole university-wide faculty dedicated exclusively to sport studies, research, and development within The UWI system.

The Faculty encompasses Academies of Sport at four of the institution's five campuses and offers a diverse range of programs—from certificates to postgraduate degrees—in areas such as Sports Business, Sports Management, Sports Science, and the Art and Science of Coaching.

Through its academic offerings, outreach initiatives, and co-curricular activities, The UWI Faculty of Sport states that it has established itself as a regional hub for nurturing sporting excellence and promoting the integral role of sport in regional development. (Dominica News Online)

OECS Secretary-General and French Senate promote discussion on interregional collaboration

On September 17, 2025, the Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), H.E. Dr. Didacus Jules, participated in a virtual dialogue with the Delegation of the French Senate for Overseas Territories. The meeting was conducted from the French Embassy's office in Saint Lucia. The OECS-issued media release said that the Senate Committee was offered an insightful overview of how French Territories are involved in regional integration efforts, as well as their cultural and geographical significance in relation to neighboring nations.

During the discussion, Dr. Jules reportedly highlighted the distinctive model of cooperation developed by the Eastern Caribbean, anchored in the Revised Treaty of Basseterre and the Protocol of the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union. He emphasized that regional integration is not merely an ideal but a tangible experience for OECS citizens, exemplified by policies such as free movement across borders, a unified economic zone, and shared institutions like the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

He stated that these initiatives serve as practical proof that small nations can more effectively confront global issues when they



unite.

He stated, "When we talk about regional cooperation in the Eastern Caribbean, it really comes down to something simple but powerful: small states realizing that by pooling our efforts, we can achieve far more together than we could ever do alone."

Dr. Jules underlined the vital role played by Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Saint Martin in regional cooperation. OECS reports that Dr. Jules conveyed the importance of their participation as extending beyond mere involvement; they actively enhance the scope of integration and inject fresh momentum into OECS initiatives.

"The French Caribbean

territories are not on the margins of our integration story, they are active players and leaders. They bring resources, technical expertise, and innovative practices that enrich the OECS and strengthen cooperation across the Eastern Caribbean," he remarked.

He also acknowledged Guadeloupe's leadership in chairing the OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Committee (BEMC), which guides conservation efforts across the region. The upcoming assumption of this role by Martinique in 2026 was also welcomed, as it would ensure continuity in regional environmental initiatives. Environmental sustainability emerged as a shared

priority for France and the OECS. Dr. Jules cited collaborative endeavors such as REMAR (Resilient Ecosystems through Mangrove Restoration), a €5.5 million project aimed at restoring mangroves across OECS member states. Supported by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Global Environment Facility, it serves as an example of how strategic partnerships can lead to tangible environmental benefits, said the release.

"What makes this project special is its strong collaboration with our French members, who bring expertise, local site managers, and best practices that can be shared across the wider OECS," he explained.

Concluding the discussion, Dr. Jules reiterated that the core purpose of regional integration is to improve the lives of citizens throughout the Caribbean.

"At the heart of all of this, our work is really about people, ensuring that the citizens of the Eastern Caribbean feel the benefits of integration in their daily lives, whether through greater opportunity, stronger social services, or more protection against the climate crisis," he emphasized. (Dominica News Online)

EU cyber agency says airport software held to ransom by criminals



The EU's cyber security agency says criminals are using ransomware to cause chaos in airports around the world.

Several of Europe's busiest airports have spent the past few days trying to restore normal operations, after a cyber-attack on Friday disrupted their automatic check-in and boarding software.

The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity, ENISA, told the BBC on Monday that the malicious software was used to scramble automatic check-in systems.

"The type of ransomware has been identified. Law enforcement is involved to investigate," the agency said in a statement to news agency Reuters.

It's not known who is behind the attack, but criminal gangs often use ransomware to seriously disrupt their victims' systems and demand a ransom in bitcoin to reverse the damage.

The BBC has seen internal crisis communications from staff inside Heathrow Airport which urges airlines to continue to use manual workarounds to board and check in passengers as the recovery is ongoing.

Heathrow said on Sunday it was still working to resolve the issue, and apologised to customers who had faced delayed travel.

It stressed "the vast majority of flights

have continued to operate" and urged passengers to check their flight status before travelling to the airport.

The BBC understands about half of the airlines flying from Heathrow were back online in some form by Sunday - including British Airways, which has been using a back-up system since Saturday.

The attack against US software maker Collins Aerospace was discovered on Friday night and resulted in disruption across several airports on Saturday.

While this had eased significantly in Berlin and London Heathrow by Sunday, delays and flight cancellations remained.

Brussels Airport, also affected, said the "service provider is actively working on the issue" but it was still "unclear" when the issue would be resolved.

They have asked airlines to cancel nearly 140 of their 276 scheduled outbound flights for Monday, according to the AP news agency.

Meanwhile, a Berlin Airport spokesperson told the BBC some airlines were still boarding passengers manually and it had no indication on how long the electronic outage would last.

It is understood that hackers behind the attack targeted a popular checking software called Muse.

Collins Aerospace has not explained

what happened or told the public how long things will take to be resolved. The company is still referring to it as a 'cyber incident'

In a statement on Monday morning, the software provider said it was in the final stages of completing necessary software updates.

The internal memo sent to Heathrow staff, seen by the BBC, says more than a thousand computers may have been "corrupted" and most of the work to bring them back online is having to be done in person and not remotely.

The note also says that Collins rebuilt its systems and relaunched them only to realise the hackers were still inside the system.

In separate advice to airlines, Collins told staff not to turn off computers or log out of the Muse software if they were logged in.

The company declined to comment on the memo and its contents.

Ransomware attacks are a prolific problem for organisations around the country, with organised cyber crime gangs earning hundreds of millions of dollars from ransoms every year.

In April, UK retailer Marks and Spencer was hit by ransomware that cost it at least £400m to recover from and months of disruption. The company has declined to say if it paid attackers a ransom.

A spokesperson for the UK's National Cyber Security Centre said on Saturday it was working with Collins Aerospace, affected UK airports, the Department for Transport and law enforcement to fully understand the impact of the incident.

Cyberattacks in the aviation sector have increased by 600% over the past year, according to a recent report by French aerospace company Thales. (BBC)

Nobel Prize winners call for binding international 'red lines' on AI



Over 200 prominent politicians and scientists, including 10 Nobel Prize winners and many leading artificial intelligence researchers, released an urgent call for binding international measures against dangerous AI uses on Monday morning.

Warning that AI's "current trajectory presents unprecedented dangers," the statement, termed the Global Call for AI Red Lines, argues that "an international agreement on clear and verifiable red lines is necessary." The open letter urges policymakers to enact this accord by the end of 2026, given the rapid progress of AI capabilities.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Maria Ressa announced the letter in her opening speech at the United Nations General Assembly's High-Level

Week Monday morning. She implored governments to come together to "prevent universally unacceptable risks" from AI and to "define what AI should never be allowed to do."

In addition to Nobel Prize recipients in Chemistry, Economics, Peace and Physics, signatories include celebrated authors like Stephen Fry and Yuval Noah Harari as well as former heads of state, including former President Mary Robinson of Ireland and former President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016.

Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio, recipients of the prestigious Turing Award and two of the three so-called 'godfathers' of AI, also signed the open letter. The Turing Award is often

regarded as the Nobel Prize for the field of computer science. Hinton left a prestigious position at Google two years ago to raise awareness about the dangers of unchecked AI development.

The signatories hail from dozens of countries, including AI leaders like the United States and China.

"For thousands of years, humans have learned — sometimes the hard way — that powerful technologies can have dangerous as well as beneficial consequences," Harari said. "Humans must agree on clear red lines for AI before the technology reshapes society beyond our understanding and destroys the foundations of our humanity."

The open letter comes as AI attracts increasing scrutiny. In just the past week, AI

made national headlines for its use in mass surveillance, its alleged role in a teenager's suicide, and its ability to spread misinformation and even undermine our shared sense of reality.

However, the letter warns that today's AI risks could quickly be overshadowed by more devastating and larger-scale impacts. For example, the letter references recent claims from experts that AI could soon contribute to mass unemployment, engineered pandemics and systematic human-rights violations.

The letter stops short of providing concrete recommendations, saying government officials and scientists must negotiate where red lines fall in order to secure international consensus. However, the letter offers suggestions for some limits, like prohibiting lethal autonomous weapons, autonomous replication of AI systems and the use of AI in nuclear warfare.

"It is in our vital common interest to prevent AI from inflicting serious and potentially irreversible damages to humanity, and we should act accordingly," said Ahmet Üzümcü, the former director general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize under Üzümcü's tenure.

As a sign of the effort's feasibility, the statement points

International

AROUND THE WORLD



to similar international resolutions that established red lines in other dangerous arenas, like prohibitions on biological weapons or ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons.

Warnings about AI's potentially existential threats are not new. In March 2023, more than 1,000 technology researchers and leaders, including Elon Musk, called for a pause in the development of powerful AI systems. Two months later, leaders of prominent AI labs, including OpenAI's Sam Altman, Anthropic's Dario Amodei and Google DeepMind's Demis Hassabis, signed a one-sentence statement that advocated for treating AI's existential risk to humanity as seriously as threats posed by nuclear war and pandemics.

Altman, Amodei and Hassabis did not sign the latest

letter, though prominent AI researchers like OpenAI co-founder Wojciech Zaremba and DeepMind scientist Ian Goodfellow did.

Over the past few years, leading American AI companies have often signalled a desire to develop safe and secure AI systems, for example by signing a safety-focused agreement with the White House in July 2023 and joining the Frontier AI Safety Commitments at the Seoul AI Summit in May 2024. However, recent research has shown that, on average, these companies are only fulfilling about half of those voluntary commitments, and global leaders have accused them of prioritizing profit and technical progress over societal welfare.

Companies like OpenAI and Anthropic also voluntarily allow the Center for

AI Standards and Innovation, a federal office focused on American AI efforts, and the United Kingdom's AI Security Institute to test and evaluate AI models for safety before models' public release. Yet many observers have questioned the effectiveness and limitations of such voluntary collaboration.

Though Monday's open letter echoes past efforts, it differs by arguing for binding limitations. The open letter is the first to feature Nobel Prize winners from a wide range of scientific disciplines. Nobel-winning signatories include biochemist Jennifer Doudna, economist Daron Acemoglu, and physicist Giorgio Parisi.

The release of the letter came at the beginning of the U.N. General Assembly's High-Level Week, during which heads of state

and government descend on New York City to debate and lay out policy priorities for the year ahead. The U.N. will launch its first diplomatic AI body on Thursday in an event headlined by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres.

Over 60 civil-society organizations from around the world also gave their support to the letter, from the Demos think tank in the United Kingdom to the Beijing Institute of AI Safety and Governance.

The Global Call for AI Red Lines is organized by a trio of nonprofit organizations: the Center for Human-Compatible AI based at the University of California Berkeley, The Future Society and the French Center for AI Safety. (NBC)

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE Multidisciplinary Cancer Symposium



**Hanybal
Yazigi MD**
ONCOLOGIST



**Cherie
Tulloch MD**
A&B CHAIR
CERVICAL CANCER
ELIMINATION
PROGRAM



**Dr. Jonathan
Makanjuola**
UROLOGIST



**Dr. Anesa
Ahamad**
RADIATION
ONCOLOGIST



**Samantha
Moitt**
CHIEF NUTRITION
OFFICER (ANTIGUA
& BARBUDA)

4 OCTOBER 2025 SANDALS
GRANDE
RESORT & SPA

4.3-magnitude earthquake jolts the San Francisco Bay Area and people report feeling a sharp shake

An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.3 rocked the San Francisco Bay Area early Monday, waking up many people, with more 22,000 saying they felt it, according to the United States Geological Survey.

The earthquake was just east-southeast of Berkeley, the survey said. It happened shortly before 3 a.m. PT.

People posted online that they felt their homes shake. Bay Area Rapid Transit posted on X that trains were running at reduced speeds as it completes safety track inspections. It told commuters to expect delays of up to 20 minutes systemwide.

San Francisco Mayor Dan Lurie posted online about the quake, saying “first responders are assessing any impact to our city, and we will give an update later today.”

“Things were shaking in our newsroom,” posted Dave Clark, a news an-



chor for KTVU-TV. “It caught everyone off guard.”

News stations reported that people as far south as Salinas, about 100 miles

(161 kilometers) from Berkeley, felt it.

It wasn’t immediately known if there were any injuries or significant damage. (NBC)






PDV Caribe
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

Bullets and Dredgers still unbeaten in IBSC Tape Ball T20 Classic

Bryson's Bullets and defending champions PEL Dredgers extended their unbeaten run in the 10th Annual LL Supply Limited and Total Imports Island Boys Softball Club (IBSC) Tape Ball T20 Classic on Sunday.

Both teams recorded their third wins in four matches during the fourth round of fixtures in the 20 overs per side competition.

Bryson's Bullets romped to a 10-wicket win against Hanse-on Security Tech at the Powells playing field.

Hanse-on Security Tech was dismissed for 105 in 19.5 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat. Clinton Benjamin hit 26, and Kerrique Mentor made 16.

Andra Samuel grabbed three for 11, Kimani George snapped up three for 18, and Essan Warner captured two for 29. Bullets coasted to victory by scoring 111 without losing any wickets in nine overs.

Player of the match Essan Warner hammered an unbeaten 56, and Jahiem Norde cracked 36 not out.

PEL Dredgers crushed PMS by 106 runs at the Antigua Grammar School (AGS) playing field. After winning the toss and opting to bat, Dredgers rattled up 232 for five off their 20 overs.

Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed 64 not out, which included eight sixes and a four. Tanez Francis cracked 61, including five sixes and four fours, and player of the match Glenton Williams hit 52. D'Andre Harris picked up two for 21.

In reply, PMS was dismissed for 126 in 16.2 overs, with Adrian Barron scoring 30. Glenton Williams snatched three for 22, and Loy Weste and Tyrone Williams Jr. each picked up two for 17.

After their two previous matches were abandoned due to rainy conditions, Koconut Car Rental Buckley's 3Js kept their unbeaten run intact, re-



Demetri Lucas

cording their second win in four outings with a 65-run victory against Easy Pickings Mix Up at Antigua Grammar School playing field.

The Buckley's 3J's were all out for 191 off their 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Kadeem Henry hit 47, Steve Martin struck 31, and Kadeem Phillip scored 23.

Ahmad Ashaq snapped up three for 18, Alfred Jarvis claimed three for 33, and Isaiah Viville captured two for 51.

In reply, Easy Pickings Mix Up were restricted to 126 for nine off their 20 overs. Frederick Floyd struck 75, including 11 sixes and a four. Player of the match Gregson Merrick grabbed three for 10, Kadeem Phillip picked up two for 26, and Rodney Williams claimed two for 36.

Pelican Safari Tours VIP Squad notched up their second win in four encounters by snatching a two-run



Glenton Williams

victory against TG Welding & Fabrication Underdogs at Powells.

The VIP Squad was dismissed for 177 in 17.1 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Player of the match Demetri Lucas struck 73, which included eight fours and six sixes, and Elroy Francis Jr. scored 40.

Vishal Gobin bagged four for 13, Rondell Winter grabbed three wickets for eight runs, and Hughon Tonge claimed two for 38.

In reply, TG Underdogs just fell short of achieving their victory target. The Underdogs were restricted to 175 for six off their 20 overs.

Xanden Hobson hit 63, including five fours and four sixes. Orandel Boston cracked 27, and Rondell Winter made 20. Akeem Blackman captured two for 36.

More success for Sandals in defence of Business Basketball League title



2024 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's Business League champions, Sandals. (File photo)

Defending champions Sandals made it two wins in a row as they continued their successful start in defence of their title in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Championships on Sunday night.

Sandals, which won the round-robin league and the playoff titles last year, launched their campaign in the 2025 competition with a commanding 69-36 victory against Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance in the first game of an opening night double-header at

the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

The defending champions returned to the same venue the following night and produced another convincing performance in coasting to a 71-50 victory against newcomers Fearless Security Services in the second game of Sunday's double-header.

T-Shawn Lewis shot a game-high 18 points; Sellassie Brathwaite produced 14 points, four assists, and four steals; and Keroi Lee chipped in with 11 points, 13 rebounds, and four assists for Sandals.

Emeka Emejuru converted 12 points and snatched eight rebounds, and Beniah Mark also scored 12 points and claimed three steals for Fearless Security Services.

The Antigua Power Company launched their campaign with a 66-40 victory against J&J Company Landscaping Services in Sunday's opening game.

Amare Browne sank 20 points, Aiden Crawford converted 16 points and snatched eight rebounds, and Ammiel Williams scored 14 points and claimed six rebounds for Antigua Power

Company.

Dwayne Samuel scored 11 points for J&J Company Landscaping Services.

The business league competition will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening.

Third-place finishers for the past two years, Richie's Shooters will begin their campaign against Fearless Security Services at 7 pm, and the 2023 champions, Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, will take on Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance at 8 pm.

Knight Riders beat Warriors in the final to win 2025 CPL title



The Trinbago Knight Riders celebrate after winning the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League title at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Sunday, September 21, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

The Trinbago Knight Riders held their nerve to beat the Guyana Amazon Warriors by three wickets in a tense finale to win the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) title at a jam-packed Providence Stadium in Guyana on Sunday night.

The Warriors were restricted to 130 for eight off their 20 overs, and the Knight Riders secured their victory by scoring 133 for seven with 12 balls to spare.

Choosing to bat after captain Imran Tahir won the toss, the Warriors struggled from the start and never truly found any rhythm. Opener Ben McDermott made a brisk 28 off 17 balls as the Warriors reached just 41 for two inside the power play.

Iftikhar Ahmed hit a top score of 30 off 27 balls, and Dwaine Pretorius made 25 off 18 balls. Left-arm seamer Saurabh Netravalkar tore through the lower order with three for 25, and player of the match Akeal Hosein claimed two for 26, leaving the Warriors with a modest total to defend.

But the chase was far from straightforward, as the Knight Riders wobbled at 89 for four in the 13th over, sparking hopes of a Warriors fightback.

After opener Alex Hales fell for 26 off 34 balls, Colin Munro was dismissed for 23 off 15 balls, and Sunil Narine made 22 off 17 balls, Kieron Pollard, however, flexed his big-match pedigree, blasting three sixes off Tahir to briefly steady nerves.

Providence roared again when Tahir struck twice in two balls, removing Pollard for 21 off 12 balls and Russell for a first-ball duck to swing the game back on a knife's edge.

Yet Hosein, who made 16 not out off seven balls, proved the cool head in the chaos, sealing victory and the Knight Riders' record fifth CPL crown with back-to-back boundaries off left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie.

Tahir finished with three for 34, capping a brilliant tournament where he topped the wicket-taking charts with 23 scalps. Fast bowler Shamar Joseph grabbed two wickets for nine runs, and medium pacer Dwaine Pretorius captured two for 21.

Republic Bank renews Caribbean Premier League title sponsorship

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) and Republic Bank Limited (RBL) have announced the continuation of their groundbreaking partnership.

The new three-year agreement sees Republic Bank continue as title sponsor and official bank of the Republic Bank CPL, as well continuing the commitment to both the Women's CPL, and their expanding grassroots cricket investment via the highly successful RBL Five for Fun programme aimed at inspiring the next generation of cricketers.

This highly successful collaboration first started in 2016, when Republic Bank was the official banking partner and grew significantly in 2023 when the bank became title sponsor for the first time.

Republic Bank is the largest financial institution in the English-speaking Caribbean and the partnership with CPL, the largest regional sporting event, has been a game changing one for cricket fans around the region.

With innovative fan-first marketing and promotional strategies, Republic Bank has helped the CPL to drive deeper engagement with fans and communities, while funding innovation and deepening the tournament's Caribbean identity.

The next three years promise more excitement as the Republic Bank CPL contin-



Captain of the Trinbago Knight Riders Nicholas Pooran holds the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League trophy after leading his team to their fifth CPL title in Guyana on Sunday, September 21, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

ues to grow and spread joy across the region.

Both Republic Bank and the CPL are deeply committed to both regional economic development and the development of Caribbean talent.

With the tournament driving a significant economic impact, estimated at US\$225.4m in 2024, the partnership with the region's leading financial institution creates many synergies that benefits both organisations and the region.

Richard S. Sammy, Group Vice President, Republic Financial Holdings Limited and Vice President, Republic Bank Limited, shared, "We are absolutely thrilled to renew our partnership

with the Caribbean Premier League for another three years.

"Since 2016, we've been deeply committed to investing in the development of cricket across the region, and this renewed commitment is a testament to our belief in the power of the sport to bring people together and inspire a new generation of regional talent to shine brightly on a world stage.

"This partnership is more than just a sponsorship; it's a shared vision to enable a top-tier cricket experience for fans while providing digital-first banking solutions that meet the evolving needs of the Caribbean people."

Republic Bank CPL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pete Russell says, "We are delighted to welcome back Republic Bank as the title sponsor and official bank of the Caribbean Premier League.

"They have been a phenomenal partner of the tournament and their involvement ensures three more years of investment into putting together what is one of the world's great cricket leagues.

"My personal thanks go out to the Republic Bank board and executive team in believing in the value that the CPL brings to the region and for continuing the journey with us for the next three years."

Sports

TUESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2025



Antigua & Barbuda wins 2025 ECVA Men's Final Four title

Antigua and Barbuda swept St. Lucia 3-0 in the final to win the inaugural 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Men's Final Four Championship at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's on Sunday evening.

Antigua and Barbuda gained revenge for a 3-0 loss to the St. Lucians in the last encounter in the preliminary stage with their commanding 25-23, 25-19, and 25-15 victory in the championship decider and qualified for the 2026 NORCECA Pan American Cup.

It is the third consecutive title for Antigua and Barbuda, who won the ECVA's men's championship in 2023 and 2024 and qualified for their debut appearance at the 12-team 18th Senior Men's Pan American Cup, which was held in Mexico from August 26 to 31.

Despite their last-place finish at this year's Pan American Cup, head coach Carl Williams said Antigua and Barbuda benefited from their participation at the NORCECA event in Mexico by providing the Antiguan players with adequate preparation to win the ECVA's Men's Final Four Championship.

"It's well deserving; the



President of the ABAVA Wilbur Harrigan holds the trophy with players of the Antigua and Barbuda team in celebration of their achievement of winning the inaugural 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's Men's Final Four Championship at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's on Sunday, September 21, 2025. (Photo courtesy of ECVA)

guys would have worked hard for the past five to six months, and going to Mexico prepared them for this tournament, and it's only fair to them to come and execute in front of their home crowd," Williams stated.

The Antiguan players came out swinging and earned 38 points off attack, compared with 36 for St. Lucia. The Antiguan players also had more blocking points (33-32) and also led in aces 7-1. But St. Lucia made fewer errors (17-22).

The top scorer of the match was Antigua and Barbuda's outside hitter Cairon Davis with 17 points. Clercent Joseph led St. Lucia

with 13 points.

Dominica captured the bronze medals in the ECVA's Men's Final Four tournament, defeating Grenada 3-0 in straight sets (25-19, 28-26, and 26-24) in the playoff for third place on Sunday.

The Dominicans came out strong, taking early control of the match by dominating the first set. Grenada responded with intensity, especially in the second set, but Dominica remained focused and closed the match in three sets to secure the bronze medals.

A dominant attacking performance gave Dominica the edge, with a 40-34 ad-

vantage in kills. Dominica recorded eight blocks, and both teams tied in service aces (4-4). Dominica committed 27 errors, and Grenada had 24.

Yahn Florent led the scores with 13 points, and middle blocker Nester James contributed 12 points for Dominica. Grenada's top scorer was Darron Oxford with 15 points.

Dominica's head coach Ithoma James reflected on the significance of the moment.

"I am satisfied because at least we are going home with something. I am still disappointed because of our losses, and we could have won the silver or at least got into the finals. The bronze medal is something, and I am happy that the guys came back after two losses."

Grenada's assistant coach Javin Noel was disappointed that the team lost all four matches.

"I feel disappointed for the team and coaching staff. We struggled to execute our game plan; however, we came out to dig deep. We came out tonight and put everything on the line, and I believe this was one of our better matches; however, Dominica got the better of us at the end of the game."