

Antigua and Barbuda Backs Global Development Initiative at UN

Page 2

Poppy Appeal, 2025



Chairman of the Ex-Servicemen's Association, Philmore Mullin, pins a Poppy on the lapel of Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts, marking the launch of the 2025 Poppy Appeal.

Photo Credit: Office of the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda Backs Global Development Initiative at UN High-Level Meeting; Calls for Fairer Rules, Scaled Finance, and Inclusive Technology



Antigua and Barbuda joined world leaders at the High-Level Meeting on the Global Development Initiative (GDI) under the theme “Recommit to Our Original Aspirations, Unite to Build a Brighter Future of Global Development.” The session brought together Heads of State and Government, the UN Representatives, and international organisations to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne delivered Antigua and Barbuda’s statement during the high-level segment.

Prime Minister Browne said Antigua and Barbuda welcomes China’s decision to assume a more central role in global governance and expects that such leadership will help shape “international rules, institutions, and norms that are fairer, more equitable, and directed toward global peace and shared prosperity.” He urged an end to “senseless wars or useless ideological confrontation,” and appealed for cooperation based on love, peace, unity, and justice, reminding leaders that “we are one human family.”

In his intervention, Prime Minister Browne set out practical areas for co-operation that respond to the needs of

developing countries to include eradicating hunger and poverty and close delivery gaps on core goals and mobilise concessional and blended finance to build resilient, growth-enabling assets.

In addition, enabling access to digitalization and AI so small states are not left behind and appreciation for China’s role in catalysing concessional financing and grants, and a call for other nations to follow suit are priority areas for Antigua and Barbuda.

“This is the time to recommit—work together, reduce inequalities, and create opportunities that benefit all people,” the Prime Minister said.

According to the meeting communiqué, participants reached broad consensus to:

- Place development at the heart of the international agenda and uphold multilateralism—including reform of global financial governance to increase developing-country voice.
- Defend openness and rules-based trade, restore a fully functioning WTO dispute settlement system, and help developing countries integrate into global value chains.

- Broaden financing channels—with developed countries meeting ODA and climate-finance commitments—and scale technology transfer that matches real needs.
- Advance innovation-driven and green development, cooperate on AI and big data, close the digital/AI divide, and pursue low-carbon growth consistent with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.
- Strengthen the Group of Friends of the GDI and deepen cooperation with UN development agencies, multilateral development banks, and wider stakeholders.

The meeting featured a High-Level Segment; including addresses by Chinese Premier Li Qiang and UN Secretary-General António Guterres, followed by statements from Heads of State/Government—with Antigua and Barbuda inscribed—then a Panel Discussion led by senior officials and experts. Guiding questions focused on concrete actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, revitalising development for the Global South, and the role of AI in development.

Antigua and Barbuda affirmed its readiness to work with partners across the UN system to renew and strengthen cooperation under the GDI framework; engage actively with the Group of Friends of the GDI and UN agencies to translate consensus into country-level projects; and pursue partnerships that expand concessional finance, infrastructure investment, and technology transfer (including AI and digitalisation) for small states.



ROUTES WORLD

Hong Kong 24 – 26 September 2025



Tourism Authority Pushes for Stronger Airlift at Routes World 2025

A delegation from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), led by CEO Colin James, is in Hong Kong this week attending Routes World 2025, a premier aviation industry forum that brings together airlines, airports, and tourism officials from around the globe.

Dean Fenton, US Director of Tourism, said the team has scheduled more than 40 high-level appointments with regional and international carriers to negotiate expanded services.

“Our goal is simple,” Fenton explained. “We’re here to strengthen relationships, explore opportunities for increased fre-

quency, and secure more flights into Antigua and Barbuda. Routes gives us the platform to do exactly that.”

For Antigua and Barbuda, airlift is more than convenience—it is lifeblood. With no land connections to larger markets, visitors must arrive by air or sea, and flights remain the most direct and scalable option.

Norrell Joseph, Sales and Marketing Manager for the USA, emphasised the importance of the annual Routes event, noting, “This conference allows us to engage our airline partners in meaningful conversations about the needs of our destination”.

“We bring feedback from travel partners on challenges they face getting clients to Antigua and Barbuda, and we work to find solutions. Increased frequency, additional nonstop gateways, and stronger partnerships are essential to growing our markets.”

Antigua and Barbuda enjoys nonstop services from major U.S. hubs, London, and seasonal flights from Germany. However, the team is pushing for greater connectivity across North America, Europe, and beyond.

Joseph noted that Routes World 2025 also provides a chance to raise aware-

ness among new markets.

“Already, we’ve had conversations with people who admitted they had never heard of Antigua before. These exchanges may not be the main purpose of the conference, but they’re valuable in sparking interest and planting seeds for future travel demand,” he said.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation remains focused on walking away from Routes World with commitments that will translate into tangible benefits for the twin-island nation, to include more flights, stronger airline partnerships, and ultimately, more visitors.

Local News

Antigua and Barbuda Reaffirms Support at UN High-Level Conference on Palestine

Antigua and Barbuda yesterday reiterated its support for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East at the High-level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and Implementation of the Two-State Solution, convened at the United Nations.

Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne welcomed the convening of the conference and underscored its value in reinvigorating international momentum toward a two-state solution.

“The people of Palestine have waited far too long for the dignity, peace, and security that self-determination affords. Antigua and Barbuda stands in solidarity with



the Palestinian people and joins the international community in calling for urgent, good-faith negotiations to realize two states, living side by side in peace,” Prime Minister Browne said.

The Prime Minister urged all parties to act with courage, restraint, and a spirit of compromise, noting that peace remains the only viable path forward. Antigua and Barbuda pledged

continued support for multi-lateral efforts aimed at a negotiated settlement that upholds international law and ensures the rights and security of both Palestinians and Israelis.

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

BACK-TO-SCHOOL **GLASSES SALE**

**FRAME + BLUE
SELECT
LENSES -
ONLY \$500!**

- ✓ Stylish, durable frames
- ✓ Blue light protection – gear for screen time
- ✓ Ideal for students of all ages!

Exclusions may apply

SALE RUNS: AUGUST 1 – SEPTEMBER 30th

Progressive Vision

Old Parham Rd, Antigua

Start the school year right – with clear, protected vision.!

Governor General's Deputy Officially Launches 2025 Poppy Appeal



The Cenotaph at Antigua Grammar School where wreaths were laid on Tuesday



Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts (L) and Philmore Mullin (R) Chairman of the Ex-Servicemen's Association during the launch of the 2025 Poppy Appeal

The Antigua and Barbuda Ex-Servicemen's Association officially launched the 2025 Poppy Appeal on Tuesday at the Cenotaph of Antigua Grammar School.

The event highlighted remembrance, national pride, and the ongoing commitment to support veterans who have served with distinction.

Representing the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Clare Roberts, KCN, KC, Governor General's Deputy, delivered the keynote address and formally launched the appeal. In his remarks, Sir Clare underscored the significance of the poppy as a lasting symbol of remembrance and hope, reminding the audience that the duty to care for those who served now rests with all citizens.

Sir Clare read John McCrae's timeless poem 'In Flanders Fields' and noted that the red poppy in the poem reminds us that freedom was purchased with sacrifice, and that the

duty to care for those who served is now ours.

In his message, Philmore Mullin, Chairman of the Ex-Servicemen's Association, reaffirmed the Association's mission of raising awareness and funds to assist veterans in need. He emphasised that the organisation's work ensures the sacrifices of Antigua and Barbuda's servicemen and women, as well as those across the Commonwealth, are never forgotten and that this reality should inspire the public to support the Appeal wholeheartedly. Mr. Mullin later pinned the first poppy on the Governor General's Deputy, symbolizing the official start of the 2025 Appeal. The Governor General's Deputy also infused life into the appeal with a donation on behalf of his wife Lady Roberts and himself.

The short but meaningful programme was chaired by Public Relations Officer, Retired Major Ivor Walker and featured the participa-

tion of key national leaders and institutions. Among them were Mr. Everton Jeffers, Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Principal of Antigua Grammar School, Major Samuel Roberts, Head of the National Cadet Corps, and Chairman Mr. Philmore Mullin. Each dignitary laid a wreath at the Cenotaph.

A central feature of this year's launch was the participation of the Antigua Grammar School, ensuring that the younger generation is actively engaged in carrying forward the lessons

of sacrifice, courage, and national service. The ceremony also included the traditional recital of the Creed, reminding all present of the enduring symbolism of the poppy as both a tribute to those who gave their lives and a call to preserve peace.

The launch concluded with remarks by the Association's Deputy Chairman Mr. Everton Michael who reiterated the call to support the Ex-Servicemen's Association through poppy purchases or generous donations.

NOTICE

The China Aid Programme in collaboration with The Embassy of China Antigua and Barbuda, Yuan Long Ping High Tech Agriculture Co. Ltd. Ministry of Agriculture Lands Fisheries and the Blue Economy presents, a 3-week training course on Agricultural Water Saving Irrigation for Antigua and Barbuda from 16 th October to 5th November 2025 at the Villa Poly Clinic ,Villa Area.

Please call 462 0418 or 764 1256 for further information on registration



CAREER OPPORTUNITY RETAIL ENGINEER

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

The West Indies Oil Company Ltd (WIOC) is a premier oil storage and petroleum products provider in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and the rest of the Eastern Caribbean. We thrive on a strategic direction of performance, proficiency and professionalism thereby leading the charge in the execution of a transformative business model that has our customers at the core. We are an ever-growing energy company, seeking a dynamic professional for an exciting career opportunity.

Role Profile:

The ideal candidate must drive the improvement and further development of the company's retail network strategy with broad duties to include:

- Assist the Senior Project Engineer in the preparation of the Capital Budget specific to customer locations annually; design specifications, Convenience Stores (C-Store) layout and maintenance in compliance with international industry codes for petroleum installations.
- Supervise the construction and maintenance of WIOC's retail service stations (Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica) to ensure that they consistently meet the company's standards as well as local regulatory requirements for health, safety and environmental compliance, as well as the company's branding guidelines.
- Assist with the installation and maintenance at commercial customer (hotels, restaurants, bakeries etc.) sites to include diesel storage/dispensing, gasoline storage/dispensing and LPG bulk storage in line with industry codes whilst providing strategic assessments and recommendations of new product/service opportunities.
- Provide assistance with maintenance of the LPG bulk storage facility and equipment, Fuel Storage Tanks and piping systems at the WIOC's Friars Hill Terminal, as well as the automation of these facilities in compliance with API, ASME, NFPA and NACE codes and standards.

Qualifications & Required Skills:

- Minimum of 5 years' experience in the petroleum industry, and in particular in the Retail Service Station segment.
- Hold a recognized certification in Project Management, and /or a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering or Civil Engineering.
- Field experience in fuel related construction projects and sound knowledge of applicable industry codes, standards and best practices.
- Certification in service station and LPG installations will be an asset.
- Strong communication skills: strong command of grammar (oral and written), assertive, clear, able to convey technical content into easy-to-understand concepts and ideas.

Application Process

Please apply by emailing your Curriculum Vitae to recruitment@westindiesoil.com. Closing date for receipt of applications is **September 30, 2025**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.



P.O. BOX 230, FRIARS HILL ROAD, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA



1 (268) 462 0140/1



westindiesoil.com



61 Creatives Complete Music Producers' Masterclass



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) recently completed its six-day Music Producers' Masterclass: Audio Essentials, with 61 participants receiving certificates of completion.

Hailed as a transformative experience, the training left attendees energised and better equipped to elevate the country's music industry.

The masterclass was led by Kasey Phillips, CEO and Founder of Precision Productions, whose credits include work with international superstars such as Ciara, Chris Brown, and Toni Braxton, as well as Carib-

bean icons Machel Montano, Bunji Garlin, and Antigua's Tian Winter.

Joined by members of his Precision Productions team, Phillips delivered immersive, hands-on training sessions for producers, engineers, songwriters, and musicians at the State Insurance Company Limited Conference Centre on Independence Avenue.

Attendees described the experience as eye-opening and unifying.

During the closing ceremony, Petley O'Keffe, Director of National Festivals, praised participants for their commitment to honing their skills

and strengthening the creative economy.

Delivering remarks on behalf of ABFC Chairperson, Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Senator Michael Freeland, Deputy Chair of the Commission, emphasised the Commission's dedication to showcasing Antigua and Barbuda's music on the global stage.

Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Daryll S. Matthew, encouraged participants to pursue music professionally, not as a side pursuit.

"One way to achieve immortality is through great music, and this is your passport. Your commitment to attending all these Masterclasses demonstrates your dedication to producing world-class work," Matthew said.

The program also featured an historic contribution from Clarence 'Oungku' Edwards of the Original Burning Flames, who gave rare insight into the origins of Benna Music, deepening participants' understanding of Antigua's musical heritage.

Inspired by this exchange, Kasey Phillips and the group produced two crossover rhythms during the workshop, including the officially named Antigua Festivals Rhythm. Phillips urged local artists to begin recording on the rhythm now, with an eye towards Carnival, 2026.

The week culminated with the debut of an original track, written and produced by participants of the masterclass, featuring vocals from Tian Winter.



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
**ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE**

SOLID • STABLE • SOARING

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)

CFCCU Sponsors ABHTA Hospitality Job Fair

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) has announced that Community First Co-operative Credit Union (CFCCU) will sponsor the upcoming Hospitality Job Fair, scheduled for this Friday at the Multipurpose Exhibition and Cultural Centre.

The collaboration highlights a shared commitment to supporting not only career development but also financial stability within the tourism sector. By joining forces, ABHTA and CFCCU are underscoring the role of financial empowerment as an essential pillar of professional success for both jobseekers and current hospitality workers.

Craig Marshall, Chairman of the ABHTA, welcomed the partnership, saying, “We are delighted to welcome Community First Co-operative Credit Union as a sponsor for the Hospitality Job Fair. Their partnership highlights the importance of financial wellness for all individuals working in hospitality. The ABHTA remains committed to supporting our hospitality partners not only through job opportunities but also by ensuring they are empowered to build strong financial futures”.

Community First Co-operative Credit Union views the job fair as an opportunity to directly engage with hospitality employees and prospective workers on financial planning.



Lenora Murphy, Chief Operating Officer of CFCCU, expressed enthusiasm for the partnership.

“We at CFCCU are excited to partner with the ABHTA on this initiative. Financial wellness is the foundation for personal and professional growth, and we are eager to work closely with partners in the hospitality sector to ensure employees are equipped with the tools and knowledge to achieve financial security and success.”

Attendees of the job fair will have the opportunity to visit CFCCU at booth #33, where financial advisors will

be available to provide personalized guidance and resources tailored to hospitality professionals.

The ABHTA extended its appreciation to CFCCU for its sponsorship and reaffirmed the organisation’s dedication to nurturing both the professional and financial wellbeing of Antigua and Barbuda’s hospitality workforce.

The Hospitality Job Fair is expected to draw a wide range of participants, offering opportunities for employment, training, and financial empowerment.



PAYING SCHOOL FEES? IT'S AS EASY AS ACB, AND HASSLE FREE!

Use the ACB Smart App and pay fees on the go.
With our instant ACB Merchant Payment
or EFT Options, **we've got you covered!**

follow us on for the list of schools

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



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Regional News



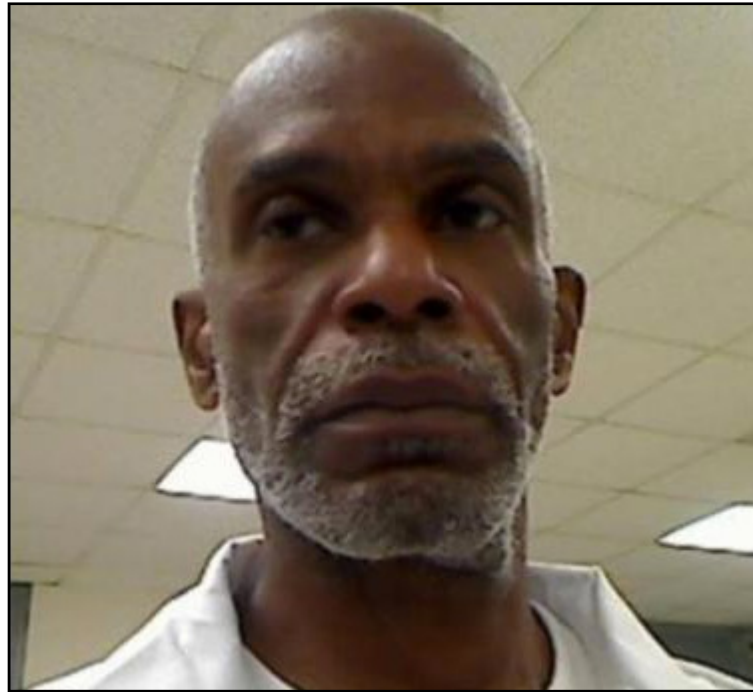
J'can repatriated from Eswatini after 2 months

A Jamaican man who was among five migrants deported by the United States to Eswatini in Africa has been repatriated to his home country, Foreign Affairs Minister Kamina Johnson Smith confirmed last night.

Orville Etoria was held in a maximum-security prison in Eswatini for more than two months without charges or access to legal counsel, his lawyers have said, accusing the United States of deporting him there unlawfully in mid-July.

The lawyers had said the US sent him to the southern African nation under the Trump administration's third-country deportation programme even though Jamaica was willing to take him back. They alleged Etoria and the four other men were then repeatedly denied visits by a lawyer while they were held at the prison.

Etoria was repatriated on Sunday with the assistance of the United Nations' International Organization for



Migration (IOM).

"We are pleased to welcome home Mr Etoria," Johnson Smith said in a statement to The Gleaner. "We trust the Jamaican public understands and joins the Government in respecting his desire for a quiet return. We reaffirm that the well-being of Jamaicans overseas is a constant priority for the Government, and note that this case is another example

of the importance of international cooperation and the role of our diplomatic network in protecting the rights of Jamaican nationals abroad."

She expressed gratitude to the government of Eswatini for its cooperation in the matter and for the duty of care it exercised.

"We also thank the IOM for its direct support and com-

mend our High Commission in Pretoria for their hands-on engagement. Together, our combined efforts ensured Mr. Etoria's safe return," said the minister.

The five men were described as dangerous criminals by the US Department of Homeland Security. It said they had been sent to Eswatini because their home countries refused to take them back.

Eswatini, in an apparent contradiction of that, said they were only there in transit and would be sent home.

The five men had been convicted of serious crimes, including murder and child rape, and all were in the US illegally and had deportation orders, the US Department of Homeland Security said. Their lawyers said they had all completed their criminal sentences but were sent overseas to be held in another prison without charges or due process. (Jamaica Gleaner)




DOLPHIN \$85,900

BYD DOLPHIN

FREE
PLATES, LICENSE &
REGISTRATION

\$2000
INSURANCE VOUCHER

484-4450 | Scotts Hill Road, Antigua

Children killed in drone attack in Haiti

The director of the Haiti Observatory within the Global Initiative Against Organised Crime, Romain Le Cour, has called on Haitian authorities to break their silence and issue an official statement regarding the drone attacks that left eight children dead in the Simon Pelé neighbourhood of Cité Soleil.

Media reports said that the attack last night was aimed at gang leader, Albert Stevenson alias “Djouma”, who at the time of the attack was preparing to celebrate his birthday and was distributing gifts to children.

The area is believed to be controlled by the Viv Ansanm (Living Together) coalition of gangs, which the United States (US) designated a “foreign terrorist” organisation in May.

One of the group’s leaders and most notorious figures, Jimmy Cherizier, known as “Barbecue”, promised to avenge the attack.

Le Cour said that the attack raised “urgent questions of accountability”. Several hours have passed since the event and authorities have still not issued an official statement.

“Who will ultimately bear responsibility for this attack: the Prime Minister? The Presidential Transitional Council? Private security companies? The leadership of the Haitian National Police?” Le Cour asked.

The Haitian National Human Rights Defence Network (RNDDH) said the explosions were caused by two kamikaze drones launched by the Haitian National Police task force and that the casualty figures were a conservative estimate, but believed at least four gang members were



killed, as well as three civilians.

Authorities in Haiti have been battling gang violence particularly in the capital, Port-au-Prince, where the criminal gangs control approximately 80 per cent of the city.

In June, the Government first publicly signalled that it was using drones when local police posted a video on Facebook of an attack on a gang leader.

At a high-level meeting on Haiti in New York on Monday, the United States, Kenya, and Haiti called for support for the transformation of the Kenya-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) country to be a more robust gang suppression force (GSF), ahead of a vote at the United

Nations (UN) Security Council later this month.

Kenyan President William Ruto acknowledged that the mission’s efforts had been undermined by a lack of material, logistical and financial resources.

“Of the 2,500 police officers the force was initially supposed to have, fewer than 1,000 are currently deployed. Added to this are defective American armoured vehicles and a lack of international support.

“We cannot depend on charity. Funding must be predictable,” Ruto said, adding that only a mission with clear objectives, guaranteed resources and solid logistical support would be able to address these structural deficiencies. (CMC)

Regional News

Official opening parade for Independence 2025 set for Saturday

The official opening of the 47th Anniversary of Independence kicks off on Saturday, September 27, with a parade in the streets of Roseau from 3:00 PM.

Chief Cultural Officer Earlson Matthew made the announcement while speaking on DBS Radio on Monday.

“Well, last year, for the first time, we did the official opening parade. Of course, the day before that, we did the ceremony because we heard the complaints that people [don’t] like, you know, the speeches after the road and all of that. So we did the official opening and then the parade last year,” he said. “And the parade was a success. It was a hit, I could say. People enjoyed it. And what we’re going to do this year is build on that. So, you know, we [took] note of things that needed improvement and things that worked well. And we’re just going to keep building on that.”

He continued, “I mean, there are things that we didn’t feature, things like the marching band aspect. You remember Independence back in the days before the World Creole Music Festival, the highlight of the Independence season was actually the street parade, the military parade. So, I mean, the festival has grown...”



According to Matthew, organizers plan to include the element of the marching band.

“So we have the Cadet Corps with us [and] if we are talking of improvement from last we didn’t feature dance so heavily, so we are going to feature bele on the road, we are going to feature the European round dances on the road, with live amplified traditional bands backing them up,” he

revealed. “We had two last year [and] we are going to double on that this year.”

He continued, “We are going to feature a float done by DEXIA [Dominica Export Import Agency] and the Local Government Division, which will highlight Market Day with a Difference, because that is another important part of the Independence season.”

Matthew explained that the float will be a simulation of

a market day, “the market stand and the produce... they will be doing all of that.”

Furthermore, he said there will be another float featuring WATO, highlighting the cuisine aspect of Dominica’s culture.

Additionally, Matthew encourages the general public to wear madras for the occasion.

“We are asking the public to wear their madras on Saturday,” he encouraged. “We want to make it inclusive, you don’t just come and watch, you are part of it because you have to dress the part as well; look the part.”

Meanwhile, he said the parade route will be similar to last year and will begin from the Pottersville Savannah to the City of Roseau, then will follow the Carnival route, “From Independence Street, King George V Street, the Dame Eugenia Charles Boulevard, Kennedy Avenue.”

“When we get to Great George Street by Payless we make a left onto Great George Street, and all the way to the Bridge. We take a left onto the Promenade, which is different from last year,” Matthew explained. “Last year we went through the market and came up.” (Dominica News Online)

Afghan boy flies from Kabul to Delhi hiding in plane's landing gear



A 13-year-old Afghan boy made a dangerous journey from Kabul to Delhi, hiding in the landing gear compartment of a Kam Air passenger plane.

Officials say the teen, who is from Kunduz city in northern Afghanistan, was found wandering around on the runway at Delhi's international airport after the plane landed on Monday.

He was detained by Indian security personnel and questioned for several hours before being sent back to Kabul on the same flight.

The boy reportedly told authorities he made the journey out of curiosity.

A spokesperson from the Indian Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) said the boy managed to

travel undetected on Kam Airlines flight RQ-4401, which landed in Delhi around 11:10 (05:40 GMT) on Sunday.

Police found him roaming around by himself and took him aside for questioning.

The boy reportedly told authorities that he had hidden himself in the rear central landing gear compartment of the plane.

The airline staff also found a small red-coloured audio speaker after further safety inspections were carried out.

The Indian Express newspaper reported that the 13-year-old wanted to travel to Iran and did not know that the flight he entered was bound for Delhi, not Tehran.

According to the newspa-

per, the boy sneaked into Kabul airport, trailed a group of passengers, and stowed away in the aircraft's rear wheel well - the internal compartment which houses the land-

ing gear. He was carrying only the red coloured speaker with him.

There have been recent incidents of stowaways hiding in flights to the US or Europe, often escaping their home countries. But very few of them make it out alive.

Experts say that many stowaways who survive such flights are often unconscious during descent, putting them at risk of falling to their deaths when the landing gear is lowered.

In 2022, a 22-year-old Kenyan man was found alive in the wheel well of a cargo plane in Amsterdam. (BBC)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



**CENTRAL
MARKETING
CORPORATION**

The Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) is in the process of hiring a Project Manager to assist with the upgrading of its facilities at Utility Drive and at its Headquarters at Valley Road, St. John's.

Individuals who are interested in making a bid for this position are kindly asked to contact the CMC Board via email atiya.fabian@ab.gov.ag with the subject heading REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.

Bids should be submitted on or before Monday, 29 September 2025.

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Typhoon bursts Taiwan lake as strongest storm barrels towards China



Two people have died in eastern Taiwan and scores more are trapped or missing after a super typhoon caused a mountain lake to burst its banks, fire officials said.

The barrier lake, formed by previous landslides, broke on Tuesday afternoon, sending water surging into the nearby township of Guang-fu in Hualien county.

Rescuers from across Taiwan are heading to the area. Super Typhoon Ragasa is the strongest storm of 2025 and is now bearing down on China's southern coast.

It is due to make land-fall in Guangdong province on Wednesday, where some 370,000 people have been evacuated, and many

schools and businesses shut. Hong Kong has upgraded its typhoon warning to eight - two levels below the maximum.

Ragasa - equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane - packed wind gusts of up to 285km/h (177mph) at its highest point on Monday, and has triggered warnings of floods, storm surges and landslides across the region this week.

Taiwan has been lashed by the outside edge of Ragasa since Monday. The island recorded almost 60cm (24 inches) of rain in its east due to the typhoon, Reuters news agency reported.

In Hualien county the burst lake washed away a bridge,

uprooted trees and submerged cars. Video showed fast-moving water flowing through the area.

"In some places, water temporarily rose as high as the second floor of a house and was about [as high as] one floor in the town centre, where the water has been receding," Lee Lung-sheng, deputy chief of Hualien County Fire Department, told AFP news agency.

"About 263 people were trapped and moved up to higher ground when the river suddenly rose. They are not in immediate danger, but they are very worried about the high water."

Elsewhere in Taiwan six people were injured, fer-

ry services suspended and more than 100 international flights cancelled as Ragasa passed through.

Chinese authorities are warning of storm surges of up to five metres. Some 370,000 people have been evacuated so far in Guangdong, as authorities warn of a "catastrophic" situation.

On Tuesday, supermarket shelves in Hong Kong were wiped empty of fresh bread, vegetables, meat and instant noodles as residents prepared to hunker down.

Hong Kong International Airport said it expected "significant disruption to flight operations" from 18:00 local time (10:00 GMT) on Tuesday until the

next day.

More than 500 Cathay Pacific flights are expected to be cancelled, while Hong Kong Airlines said it would stop all departures from the city.

Ragasa has been dubbed the “King of Storms” by China’s meteorological agency and is expected to move towards northern Vietnam in the coming days, potentially affecting millions.

In cities across southern China, shop owners piled sandbags in front of their stores in preparation for the storm’s arrival, with residents in low-lying areas next to the sea front particularly worried about tidal surges.

Many have also taped up the windows of their homes and businesses, hoping to prevent their destruction.

Although this part of southern China and Hong Kong is used to frequent typhoons, the impact this time may be worsened because of the location of the storm.

The right hand side of Ragasa - as it approaches Hong Kong and Guangdong - is known as the “dirty side” - and it is this which will hit the region. The “dirty side” can be much more destructive than the left-hand side, primarily because the motion of the storm is added to the background circulation of the typhoon.

Where these two movements combine is where the most destructive winds are found. Additionally, these winds will be pushing water

inland, resulting in a bigger storm surge.

It is not yet clear exactly how much climate change has affected Ragasa specifically. But a warming world is expected to make tropical storms like typhoons and hurricanes more intense on average, according to UN scientists.

That means higher wind speeds, heavier rainfall and a higher risk of coastal flooding, although the number of typhoons across east and southeast Asia may decrease in future.

Ragasa also lashed through a remote island in the north of the Philippines on Monday, killing at least one person as thousands of families were evacuated before the storm made landfall.

Schools and government offices were shut in large parts of the country, including in the capital Manila.

Ragasa would “pose a serious threat” to Hong Kong, said Eric Chan, the city’s Chief Secretary for Administration, comparing it to two other typhoons which left behind trails of severe destruction.

Super typhoon Mangkhut in 2018 - to date the most intense typhoon to strike the city - injured 200 people, sank ships and wrecked infrastructure, with the weather agency estimating economic losses of HK\$4.6bn (\$592m: £438m).

In 2017, typhoon Hato unleashed serious flooding and injured more than 100 people in the city. (BBC)

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE

WE'RE HIRING



Located on a hill in the city (St. John's), Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John's Medical Centre, a teaching hospital serves a diverse group of patients — from residents to tourists.

Everything matters to us at SLBMC. Because when it's you and your family, everything matters to you.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) employees are part of a premier organization dedicated to excellence in patient care and education. By working at SLBMC, you gain the opportunity and the responsibility to make a real difference in the world. Take a closer look at the open positions below and submit your resume for consideration if you are interested in helping contribute to the legacy of great achievement and even greater promise at SLBMC.

OPEN POSITIONS:

Biomedical Engineer

As a Biomedical Engineer, you will play a critical role in the repair, maintenance, calibration, and inspection of a wide range of medical equipment and instrumentation used in healthcare settings. This individual ensures that vital medical equipment is functioning optimally, conduct preventive maintenance, and provide technical support to medical and nursing staff.

Biomedical Technician

The Biomedical Technician is responsible for repairing, calibrating, and maintaining medical equipment, instrumentation, and support systems of moderate complexity used in healthcare delivery. The role also includes inspecting, installing, performing inventory assessments, and conducting preventive maintenance of medical equipment.

Deadline: September 26, 2025.



To apply, please visit:
<https://www.msjmc.org/careers>

Nasa plans first crewed Moon mission in 50 years for February



Nasa has said it hopes to send astronauts on a ten-day trip around the Moon as soon as February.

The US space agency had previously committed to launching no later than the end of April but said it aims to bring the mission forward.

It's been 50 years since any country has flown a crewed lunar mission. Nasa will send four astronauts there and back to test systems.

The Artemis II mission is the second launch of the Artemis programme, whose aim is to land astronauts and eventually establish a long-term presence on the lunar surface.

NASA Artist impression of a small spacecraft with four solar panels making a X shape around it, flying above the lunar surface with the Earth in the background. NASA

Artwork: Artemis II will be the first crewed lunar mission for more than 50 years

Lakiesha Hawkins, Nasa's acting deputy associate administrator said it would be an important moment in the human exploration of space.

"We together have a front row seat to history," she told a news conference this afternoon.

"The launch window could open as early as the fifth of February, but we want to emphasize that safety is our top priority."

Artemis Launch Director, Charlie Blackwell-Thompson explained that the powerful rocket system built to take the astronauts to the Moon, the Space Launch System (SLS) was "pretty much stacked and ready to go".

All that remained was to complete the crew capsule, called Orion, connected to SLS and to complete ground tests.

The first Artemis mission lasted 25 days and saw the launch of an uncrewed spacecraft in November 2022. It saw a spacecraft travel around the

Moon and re-enter the Earth's atmosphere.

The mission was overwhelmingly successful, though there were issues with the heatshield as the spacecraft re-entered the Earth's atmosphere. These have since been addressed.

The Artemis II launch will see four astronauts go on a ten-day round trip to the Moon and back to the Earth. The astronauts, Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, of Nasa and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency, will not land on the Moon, though they will be the first crew to travel beyond low Earth orbit since Apollo 17 in 1972.

The lead Artemis II flight director, Jeff Radigan explained that the crew would be flying further into space than anyone had been before.

"They're going at least 5,000 nautical miles (9,200Km) past the Moon, which is much higher than previous

missions have gone,” he told reporters.

The aim of the mission is to test the rocket and spacecraft’s systems to lay the ground for a lunar landing.

The astronauts will enter the Orion capsule, which will be their home for the duration of their journey which sits on top of SLS.

This will be carried initially into Earth orbit with the help of two solid rocket boosters, which will fall back to Earth two minutes after launch once they have done the heavy lifting.

Eight minutes after launch the massive Core stage will separate from the second stage, called the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion System (ICPS), and the Orion crew capsule. Orion’s solar arrays will unfurl and begin charging the spacecraft’s batteries to provide power when it is not in direct sunlight.

Ninety minutes later ICPS fires its engines to raise the vehicle to a higher Earth orbit, and for the next 25 hours there will be a full systems check.

If everything is in order, Orion will separate from ICPS and there will be a form of “space ballet” between the two vehicles, more prosaically called the Proximity Operations Demonstration.

Astronauts will manually control Orion’s manoeuvring thruster to dance toward and away from ICPS. This will be to rehearse docking procedures in order to link up with a landing vehicle for the eventual Moon landing.

Twenty-three hours later Orion’s service module carries out a Translunar Injection (TLI) burn - a blast of thrust aiming it at the Moon - before Orion makes its four-day journey, taking the astronauts more than 230,000 miles from Earth.

During the journey the astronauts will be continue to carry out systems checks.

Experiments will monitor how their bodies are affected by space. Scientists will grow tissue samples from the astronauts’ blood called organoids both before and after their journey.

The two sets of organoids will be compared to see how the astronauts’ bodies have been affected by space, according to Dr Nicky Fox, Nasa’s head of science.

“You may be wondering why we are doing all that when we have the actual astronauts, she told BBC News.

“We want to be able to study in depth the effect of the microgravity and the radiation on these samples. I’m certainly not going to dissect an astronaut! But I can dissect these little organoid samples and really look at the difference.”

After the spacecraft slingshots past the Moon, the astronauts begin their four-day journey home, drawn back with the help of the Earth’s gravity.

On arrival, the service module, which has the spacecraft’s primary propulsion system, separates from the crew module. The astronauts will then begin a dangerous part of the mission as

they re-enter the Earth’s atmosphere, and parachute back to the surface off the coast of California.

The success of the mission will determine how soon Nasa can launch Artemis III, to actually land on the Moon. But even if the mission goes to perfection, the space agency’s stated aim of “no earlier than mid-2027” is unrealistic, according to Dr Simeon Barber of the Open University.

“‘No earlier than’ is familiar language for NASA, and it means just that. That’s the earliest possibility,” he said, adding that he deemed that optimistic due to the expense of keeping Artemis III on track.

“The Moon landing will require [Elon Musk’s] SpaceX Starship to take the astronauts to and from the surface, and we’ve seen in recent months that Starship itself still has a long way to go before it can even achieve an orbital flight around the Earth, let alone put astronauts on board.” (BBC)




STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
 Live in a better State of mind

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUTURE!

Whether it's securing your home, planning for your family, or pursuing your dreams, now is the time to make those important decisions.

Trump criticizes U.N. for failing to end wars and address immigration concerns



President Donald Trump delivered a critical address to the United Nations General Assembly, charging the institution with failing to act to solve spiraling conflicts and immigration woes and deriding its “empty words” that “don’t solve war.”

“All they seem to do is write a really strongly worded letter,” he said, touting his own peacemaking efforts at a moment of heightened strain with U.S. allies over Palestinian statehood, trade and other flash points.

Trump also called climate change concerns a “con job,” saying that international agreements to reduce global warming were “destroying” much of the free world with demands that industrialized nations disrupt their societies even as the developing ones continue to defy the rules.

Instead, the president urged the nations before him to forge a new path in partnership with Washington, saying he believed the organization “has tremendous potential,” while touting his own successes and sharply criticizing

many of theirs.

“I’m really good at this stuff,” the president said. “Your countries are going to hell.”

Since his last address to the assembly six years ago, “the guns of war have shattered the peace I forged on two continents,” he said, before touting his own efforts to bring an end to seven wars and conflicts in seven months.

“I never even received a phone call from the United Nations, offering to help in finalizing the deal. All I got from the United Nations was an escalator that on the way up stopped right in the middle ... and then a teleprompter that didn’t work,” Trump said, alluding to technical issues at the beginning of his remarks Tuesday.

After his speech, Trump is scheduled to meet with U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, as well as leaders from Ukraine, Argentina and the European Union, where the president said many countries stand “on the brink of destruction” due to their green energy projects. He will also take part

in a multilateral meeting with Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Monday.

Trump said that he would soon sit down with Lula, praising their “excellent chemistry.”

When Trump addressed the U.N. during his first term, he promised to “reject the ideology of globalism” and urged other countries to join him in a patriotic national embrace. Those remarks drew derisive snickers from the world leaders and dignitaries in the audience.

This year, Trump said he was eager to offer “the hand of American leadership and friendship” to any members of the assembly “willing to join us in forging a safer, more prosperous world.”

He urged its support in bringing an end to wars, including in Gaza and Ukraine, but said that to do so, “we must work together.”

While his relationships with many foreign leaders have improved this time around, Trump has not shied from envisioning an expansionary image of American strength while imposing punishing tariffs on friends and foes alike. Some of those tariffs, Trump said, were a retaliatory effort.

“We are hitting them back,” he said of Brazil, before suggesting the bilateral relationship could forge a new path out of economic struggle.

“They can only do well when they’re working with us; without us, they will fail just as others have failed,” he said.

At the same time, the administration has accelerated its pullback from the U.N., slashing its contributions to the

organization and, until last week, leaving its ambassadorship vacant. On Friday, a State Department spokesperson called for the U.N. to “get back to basics, reorienting the organization to its origins as an effective tool for advancing peace, sovereignty, and liberty.”

The retreat was on display Sunday and Monday, after France, the U.K., Canada and Australia formally recognized a Palestinian state — with more countries likely to follow this week — breaking with leadership in Washington. Trump “has been very clear he disagrees with this decision,” Leavitt told reporters Monday in a preview of his address.

Trump, in his remarks Tuesday, said recognizing Palestinian statehood would amount to “a reward” for Hamas, and called for the release of Israeli hostages.

None of the countries that have recognized Palestinian statehood “will play much of a role in bringing about the end of this conflict in Gaza,” Secretary of State Marco Rubio told NBC News’ “Today.”

“Everybody continues to come to us to make a difference,” he added. “Any future resolution of this matter with Israel is going to have to be negotiated. Isn’t going to be up to France or the U.K. or any other country.”

Trump has urged European leaders to impose huge tariffs on India and China over their oil purchases to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the war in Ukraine, calling the failure to do so inexcusable and “embarrassing.”

“They’re buying oil and gas from Russia, while they’re fighting Russia,” he said. “They have to immediately cease all energy purchases from Russia; otherwise, we’re all wasting a lot of time.”

Separately, the United States has imposed its own punishing trade tariffs on India and a new \$100,000 fee on

new H-1 B visas. Other leaders have been locked in negotiations with the administration over the tariff regime.

Grappling with unresolved wars in Gaza and Ukraine, which he has pledged to end, Trump has acknowledged his frustrations as the two tasks remain vexingly out of reach, saying recently that Putin “really let me down” about a month after they met in Alaska for talks aimed at progress. The war, ongoing for more than three years, is “making them look bad,” he

said Tuesday.

The president has “repeatedly expressed his deep disappointment at the direction that Putin is taking this, even after Alaska, and at some point he may have to decide to impose new sanctions,” added Rubio.

But he warned that “the minute we go heavy on the sanctions and everything else, our ability to act as a broker to bring about peace is diminished. (NBC)

PLYCEM

WATER RESISTANT • FIRE RESISTANT

CHEAPER THAN DRYWALL, PLYWOOD & CEMENT BOARD



IT'S WHAT YOUR BUILDING NEEDS!

- LOW MAINTENANCE**
- EXTERIOR & INTERIOR USE**
- VERSATILE**





\$119.99 PER SHEET

ALSO, WE'VE GOT AN AWESOME DEAL ON

METAL STUDS & TRACKS



50% OFF



**OFFER AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 20TH TO 29TH**

DEWS, 'YOUR HAPPY PLACE!'

 **DEWS**

 **dewspro**

 **info@dewspro.com**

 **729-3397/ 729-1210**

Spirit Airlines to furlough 1,800 flight attendants amid second bankruptcy



Spirit Airlines plans to furlough 1,800 flight attendants before the end of the year, the cash-strapped budget carrier said Monday.

The company said it made the “difficult decision” to put cabin crew members on temporary leave to match staffing needs with expected flight demand during Spirit’s second bankruptcy in a year.

“We recognize the impact of this decision on affected team members, and we are committed to treating them with care and respect during this process,” the airline said in a statement.

Spirit filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last month and subsequently announced that it planned to suspend operations in about a dozen U.S. cities beginning in October.

The union that represents the airline’s flight attendants said Monday that Spirit would seek candidates willing to take six month or one year voluntary furloughs starting November 1 before moving forward with involuntary furloughs based on seniority effective

December 1

The Association of Flight Attendants said it was working to secure “preferential interviews” with other airlines for furloughed flight attendants.

In a letter sent Monday to its members, the union said that while it initially succeeded in staving off furloughs as Spirit tries to slash costs, “the problem is that the significant reduction of aircraft and flight hours requires a much higher reduction in force.”

Spirit, which is based in Florida, says it is ending services in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Birmingham, Alabama; Boise, Idaho; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Columbia, South Carolina; Portland; and Salt Lake City. It is also suspending operations in the California cities of Sacramento, Oakland, San Diego and San Jose.

Known for its bright yellow planes and no-frills service, Spirit has had a rough ride since the COVID-19 pandemic, struggling to rebound amid rising operation costs and its mounting debt.

By the time of its first Chapter 11 fil-

ing last November, Spirit had lost more than \$2.5 billion since the start of 2020.

The airline also instituted furloughs and job cuts before filing for bankruptcy last year.

The company’s cost-cutting efforts continued after it emerged from bankruptcy protection in March, including plans to furlough about 270 pilots and downgrade some 140 captains to first officers in the coming months.

Those changes, which are set to take effect on October 1 and November 1, were also tied to expected flight demand in 2026, the company has said.

Spirit has said it was considering selling off certain aircraft and real estate.

Its fleet is relatively young, making the airline an attractive target. But buyout attempts from budget rivals like Jet-Blue and Frontier were unsuccessful both before and during Spirit’s first bankruptcy process. (Jamaica Gleaner)

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Hermitage records first win in defence of Business League title

Defending champions Hermitage Bay Strikers recorded their first win in defence of their title in the 2025 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship over the weekend.

After launching their title defence with a goalless draw against Cocos Hotel in their opening Group 4 clash, Hermitage Bay Strikers romped to a 4-1 victory against the Department of Immigration in their second encounter at the Jennings playing field. Rodney Lawrence converted twice, and Barrington Blake and Roy Gregory scored once for Hermitage Bay.

Villa Tech Enterprise and Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority made winning starts to their campaign in Group 4 by snatching 1-0 wins in their respective opening matches.

Roan Harris struck the winner as Villa Tech Enterprise overcame Antigua Power Company at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos, while Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority prevailed against AS Bryden Green Acres at Golden Grove.

Last year's losing finalist and second-place finisher, the Ministry of Agriculture, made it two wins in as many games with a 5-0 victory against Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in a Group 2 affair at the St. Johnston's Village Stadium.

After drawing their opening game, Macky Enterprise



Rodney Lawrence scored twice for Hermitage Bay Strikers against Immigration.

notched up their first win in Group 2 by snatching a 1-0 win against the Ministry of Tourism at Golden Grove.

Fresh Acres Enterprise rebounded from a 3-1 loss to the Ministry of Tourism in their opening Group 2 encounter by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Jolly Harbour Stingers at Radio Range.

After suffering a 2-1 loss to the Ministry of Agriculture in their opening Group 2 encounter, the Central Marketing Corporation

(CMC) notched up their first win with a 2-1 victory against Hodges Bay Resort at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Last year's third-place finishers, Sandals Resort, claimed their second win in as many games in Group 1 with a 3-0 victory against Royalton Strikers at the St. Johnston's Village Stadium.

Galley Bay Ballers secured their second win in Group 1 with a 6-0 drubbing of newcomers Automotive Art at Jennings.

After suffering a 3-2 loss to Galley Bay Ballers, APUA Head Office claimed their first win in Group 1 with a 1-0 victory against Public Works Asphalt at Golden Grove.

Saint John's Development Corporation launched their Group 1 campaign with a 1-0 victory against the National Housing Department Demolition Squad at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

His Majesty's Prison (HMP) Oasis United secured their second win in as many games in Group 3 with a 3-0 victory against ACE Trucking at Radio Range.

Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority are still searching for their first win in Group 3 after battling to a 1-1 draw with Royalton Chic Hotel at the St. Johnston's Village Stadium.

After securing a 1-1 draw with Postal Services in their opening encounter, the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors notched up their first win with a 3-0 victory against SkyTiger Services at Jennings.

Postal Services also secured their first win in Group 3 with a 2-0 victory against Keyonna Beach at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Keyonna Beach Hotel and Royalton Chic Hotel will meet in a rescheduled Group 3 affair at Radio Range today at 7:30 pm.

Winning starts for BoE and Anjo Wholesale in Business Basketball League

The Board of Education (BOE) and Anjo Wholesale made winning starts to their campaigns in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Championships on Monday night.

The Board of Education launched their campaign with an 82-54 victory against the Sledge O Ballers in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Coy Quinland led the Board of Education with a game-high 18 points and five rebounds.

Danny Perez produced 14 points, five assists, and five steals, and Lind-

say McDonald scored 12 points. Daniel Perez contributed 12 points, four steals, and four assists for the Board of Education.

Marlon Davis scored 15 points, and Daijon George converted 11 points for the Sledge O Ballers.

Anjo Wholesale started their campaign by cruising to a commanding 71-58 victory against Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in the opening game of Monday's double-header.

Orion Seraphine produced 14 points, four assists, and three steals; Steven Matthew also contributed 14 points, four assists, and four steals; and Webster Baptista converted 12 points and

claimed six rebounds for Anjo Wholesale.

Demeitre Leitch sank 14 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, and Raheem Charles scored 10 points for Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

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

The Sledge O Ballers will clash with Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre at 7 pm, and Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance will take on Antigua Computer Technology at 8 pm.

Willock among winners in ABDA draughts tournament

The nation's top player, Bernard "Premier" Willock, is among the winners on the opening night of the Antigua and Barbuda Draughts Association's (ABDA) Cool and Smooth Invitational Tournament.

Willock stamped his authority with a crushing 9-0 victory against St. Clair Josiah in one of the opening matches at the invitational draughts tournament, which commenced at the Gray's Green Community Basketball Court, also known as Knuckle Block, on Monday



night.

Success as well for Anthony "Tony" Gomes, who won his first two matches. Gomes crushed Tion Grant

7-1 and prevailed by the same score line against Stevenson "Smoothie" Vital.

Vital celebrated success by snatching a 5-2 victo-

ry against Eustace "Zocio" Samuel. Samuel managed to salvage a 4-4 draw with Tion Grant in his second encounter.

Marvin "Bruce" Gray also romped to a commanding 7-1 victory against Elvis Cordice in his opening encounter.

Jack Matthew prevailed 5-2 against Amakusa Jeremiah but had to settle for a 4-4 draw with St. Clair Josiah. The draughts competition will conclude on Thursday.



Open Daily -
12:00pm - 10:30pm

ANTIGUA

currytandoorihouseanu

curryhouseanu

(268) 736-7165



**MON - FRI
9AM TO 11AM**



**HOSTED BY
TROY ALLEN**

TALK YOUR MIND

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Iconic former cricket umpire Bird dies at age 92



Former umpire Dickie Bird rings the bell ahead of the first day of the first Test match at Lord's cricket ground in London, Thursday, May 21, 2015. (AP)

Harold “Dickie” Bird, the charismatic and much-loved former cricket umpire from England who officiated in 66 test matches and three World Cup finals, has died. He was 92.

Bird’s death was announced on Tuesday by English club Yorkshire, his home county where he was made president in 2014. Yorkshire said he died “peacefully” at his home.

Yorkshire called Bird a “national treasure” who was “known not only for his umpiring excellence but also for his eccentricities and warmth.

“He leaves behind a legacy of sportsmanship, humility, and joy — and a legion of admirers across genera-

tions.”

Bird’s first-class playing career, which included spells with his beloved Yorkshire and Leicestershire, was cut short by injury at the age of 32 with an average of 20.71.

He went on to become arguably the world’s most famous umpire, standing in an English county match for the first time in 1970 and his first Test three years later.

In 1975, Bird took charge of the inaugural men’s Cricket World Cup final. At his final Test in 1996, a guard of honour by the players of England and India at Lord’s reduced him to tears.

“Dickie enjoyed an illustrious career as an umpire,” the Lord’s-based Marylebone Cricket Club said,

“and was one of the most popular officials in the history of the game.”

An umpire long before the introduction of technology to cricket, Bird — whose name resonated beyond the world of cricket — was renowned for being cautious with his decisions and making few clear mistakes, telling the BBC that his parents “installed this mental strength to believe in myself.”

In his pomp — and in his later years — he was as popular as the players he officiated, never refusing to sign an autograph and often seen waiting patiently to do so even when lines were long.

His autobiography chalked up more than a mil-

lion sales, becoming Britain’s biggest-selling sports book in the process.

It was his idiosyncrasies that made him so loved — the way he raised his finger to give a batter out, his warmth and conversational approach with players, his grin, his stooping gait, how he twitched his arms and tugged at his umpire’s jacket.

Bird listed Sir Garfield Sobers, Sunil Gavaskar, Sir Vivian Richards of Antigua, and Dennis Lillee as the best players he ever umpired.

“Remembered for your fairness, integrity, humour, and true Yorkshire spirit,” former India player Dinesh Karthik posted on X. “A legend forever.”

In his post-umpire life as after-dinner speaker and occasional TV personality, he wasn’t short of anecdotes — not least when he was in the middle when the pitch at Yorkshire’s home ground, Headingley, once flooded because of a problem with the drainage system — and he remained a proud Yorkshireman to the end.

His one regret in life, Bird told The Guardian newspaper in 2013, was not having a family.

“I gave my life to cricket, it’s as simple as that,” he said. “I never got married because I was married to the game.”

Champs Antigua dominate individual awards at ECVA's Final Four



Cairon Davis

Players from three-peat champions Antigua and Barbuda dominated the individual awards at the 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 over the weekend.

Antigua and Barbuda swept St. Lucia 3-0 in the final to win the four-team competition and qualified for the 2026 NORCECA Pan American Cup.

Dominica captured the bronze medals in the ECVA's Men's Final Four tournament, defeating Grenada 3-0 in straight sets in the playoff for third place.

Among the outstanding performers for Antigua and Barbuda is outside hitter Cairon Davis, who



Collin Thomas



Yashid Auguiste

captured the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for the 2025 ECVA Men's Final Four tournament.

Davis was also adjudged the second best spiker in the competition. Clercent Joseph of losing finalist



Dwight Bonnie

Saint Lucia captured the award for the best spiker.

Yashid Auguiste won two awards – best libero and best digger - for his defensive action with the Antiguan team. His Antiguan teammate, middle blocker Dwight Bonnie, also claimed two individual awards.

Bonnie was adjudged the best setter and the second best blocker in the tournament. Collin Thomas of Antigua won the best setter award.

Dominica's Yahn Florent also won two individual awards, the best opposite hitter and the best scorer.

Larian Tulloch of Dominica was adjudged the best receiver, and St. Lucia's Tevin St. Jean captured the award for the best blocker.